STARS STRIPES.

'Sideways' tops **Golden Globe** nomination list



Guard death rate in Iraq higher than active duty



Director depicts life of U.S. troops in Iraq

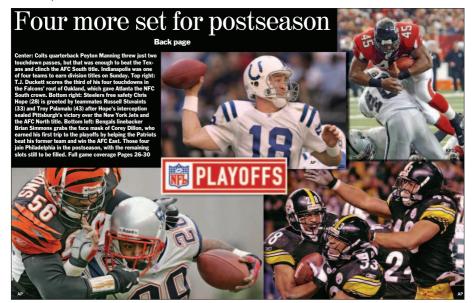
Page 11

Volume 2. No. 248 © SS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2004

Seven Marines killed in weekend battles

Later, suicide car bomb takes 13 lives outside Green Zone Page 3



Remember to thank your Command for today's copy of Stars and Stripes.



Your Stars and Stripes is now printed and delivered locally from Kuwait, Iraq, and Qatar giving you up-to-date daily news, sports and entertainment.

Without the assistance of local commands, your friends and fellow soldiers would be isolated without news from home

Contact
Stars and Stripes
circulation with
questions about
delivery at
49-6155-601-455
DSN: 349-8455

To contact a reporter in the field, email Irag@mail.estripes.osd.mil

STARS STRIPES.

Ve ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Alaska freighter accident: The U.S.
Coast Guard lowered a salvage team to
a freighter that broke in two pieces
when it ran aground off Alaska's coast,
seen as a key step toward cleaning up a de
structive, oily mess stretching for miles.

A helicopter with a three-person salvage team took off from nearby Dutch Harbor on Sunday afternoon to undertake the short flight to the 738-foot Selendang Ayu, wrecked Wednesday in rough seas. Strong winds and waves had kept authorities from boarding either half of the ship.

For days the Coast Guard had wanted to get a team on the vessel to determine how much of the 483,000 gallons of bunker oil and 21,000 gallons of diesel fuel had leaked into the sea. But bad weather hampered efforts before Sunday.

World

Fighting in Sudan: Cease-fire violations are on the rise in Sudan's bloodied Darfur region and the fighting is "poisoning" peace talks, where government and rebel negotiators met Monday for the first time, officials said.

Thirteen violations of a cease-fire agreement were confirmed in September and 54 were documented between October and mid-December, said Assane Ba, a spokesman for the African Union, which is mediating the talks

"That means the violations are growing" in the western Sudan region, where the crisis has left tens of thousands dead and nearly 2 million homeless, Ba told reporters at the site of the talks in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

"This is poisoning the atmosphere and we can't have meaningful negotiations in this situation." Ba said.

G-8 violence: A judge on Monday ordered 28 police officers to stand trial for their alleged brutality in a raid against anti-globalization protesters during the 2001 Group of Eight summit in Genoa, court officials said

The start of the trial was set for April 6, according to the office of Genoa Judge Daniela Faraggi, who made the ruling.

The pre-dawn raid on the Diaz school in Genoa, which housed many protesters, was one of the most controversial episodes of the July 2001 summit. Some protesters said they were attacked as they slept.

Police said they were acting on a tip that violent demonstrators were hiding in the school.

Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute: German President Horst Kohler on Monday urged Ethiopia and neighboring Eritrea to peacefully settle their border dispute, saying neither country could afford another conflict.

The Horn of Africa nations could not finance a repeat of their 1998-2000 border war, which cost each country an estimated \$1 million.

Ethiopia last month accepted "in principle" a ruling on its shared border with Eritea that was made as a part of a peace deal ending the 2½-year war. The ruling was made by an internationally appointed commission



Philippine market explosion: Authorities said Monday that they have identified several suspects but made no arrests as they probed a possible business feed behind a bombing that killed at least 15 people in a southern Philippine market packed with Christmas shoppers. Both Muslim and communist rebels operate in General Santos, about 620 miles south of Manila, where a homemade bomb went off in the market on Sunday. At least 70 people were wounded, and some were in critical condition. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Tawain presidential shooting: Taiwanese investigators said on Monday they've detained five suspects allegedly involved in making and selling the bullets used in the bizarre shooting that lightly injured the president on the eye of his re-election.

The arrests could be the biggest break in an investigation that has dragged on for months without producing many solid leads. The lack of progress has fed popular conspiracy theories that President Chen Shui-bian staged the March 19 attack to win last-minute sympathy voters.

The five suspects, who were involved with an illegal weapons workshop, were detained late last month in Tainan, the southern city where the president and Vice President Annette Lu were shot while parading in an open Jeep, said Wang Shen-jong, chief prosecutor in Tainan.

Japanese abductions: Prime Minister Junichino Koizumi on Monday called North Korea's abduction of Japanese nationals decades ago "unjuist and abominable" acts, as public pressure mounted on him to use economic sanctions to punish Pyongyang for the kidnappings.

Tokyo said it won't immediately punish North Korea with sanctions, despite calls to do so after forensic tests last week showed that human remains Pyongyang claimed belonged to a Japanese kidnapping victim turned out to belong to someone else.

Koizumi said he was aware of voters' demands for tougher action against Pyongyang Canada same-sex marriages: Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin was cool to the idea of a national referendum on gay marriage and said Parliament should decide the

Canada's Supreme Court ruled Thursday that gay marriage was constitutional, a landmark opinion allowing the federal government to call on Parliament to legalize same-sex unions nationwide.

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein has said he wants a national referendum on gay marriage.

"I think that this is an issue that Parliamentarians ought to decide," Martin said Sunday before addressing a brunch in Montreal. "The courts have now given their direction. I think it's one for Parliament and I think that Parliament ought to accept their responsibility."

Nuclear watchdog post: Australia's foreign minister declined to comment Monday on a newspaper report that he had turned down a U.S. request to challenge International Atomic Energy Agency head Mohamed ElBaradei for his job.

The Washington Post reported Sunday that the administration of President Bush wants Alexander Downer to take over the role because it regards ElBaradei as too soft on Iran's suspected nuclear program.

The newspaper also said that Washington bugged the phone of ElBaradei, an Egyptian diplomat who has headed the atomic agency since 1997, scrutinizing his calls in search of reasons to call for his ouster.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Correction

An Associated Press story and a Page 1 headline in Monday's edition about an Afghanistan marathon contained inaccurate information. The event was not the nation's first marathon. Comics, horoscopes and advice, every day in Stars and Stripes

7 Marines killed in Anbar province

Al-Qaida-linked suicide bombing near Green Zone kills at least 13

BY PAUL GARWOOD

BAGHDAD — The U.S. Marines lost seven of its own Sunday in fighting in the Anbar province, the worst day for the Marines since October.

Meanwhile, an al-Qaida-linked suicide bomber blew up his vehicle Monday near cars waiting to enter the Green Zone, home to the U.S. Embassy and Iraq's interin government, killing 13 Iraqis on the first anniversary of Saddam Hussein's capture.

The seven Marines died in action Sunday in the volatile Anbar province west of Baghdad, the deadliest day for the Marines since eight of their service members were killed by a car bomb Oct. 30 outside Fallujah.

The deaths brought to nearly 1,300 the number of American troops killed in Iraq since the invasion in March 2003.

It was unclear where in Anbar the Marines were killed, but the province includes the turbulent cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, the latter of which witnessed a bloody weeklong offensive last month to uproot extremist Islamic militants.

A suicide car bomber detonated his explosives-packed car near a checkpoint leading into central Baghdad's heavily fortified freen Zone, killing 13 Iraqis and wounding 15 others in an attack for which Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq group claimed credit. No U.S. troops were injured.

A U.S. soldier with the 1st Corps Support Command was killed and another wounded Monday in a vehicle accident near a military base in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad. It was unclear what caused the accident.

On Sunday, American jets dropped 10 precision-guided missiles on rebel positions in Fallujah after insurgents fought running battles with coalition forces.

"We are still running into some of these die-hard insurgents that have either come back into the city or have been laying low," spokesman Lt. Lyle Gilbert said. "As we are bringing in contractors to help with the reconstruction of Fallujah, this (fighting) slows the process down."

Further west in Ramadi, 10 explosions were heard early Monday

No details were immediately available on what caused them nor if there were casualties. The blasts came a day after insurgents and Marines traded artillery fire that killed one woman.

Å U.S. Stryker brigade patrol was attacked by a car bomb in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, on Monday, wounding two American soldiers. U.S. troops and gunmen fought gun battles after the blast.

In Tarmiyah, on Baghdad's northern outskirts, three more U.S. troops were wounded by a car bomb blast that wrecked two Humwees, pieces of which were raised into the air by jubilant Iraqi men who danced around their charred hulks and a large crater blown into the road by the explosion.

Eight of Saddam's 11 detained top lieutenants went on hunger strikes over the weekend to demand jail visits from the Interna-



A U.S. soldier secures the area Monday after a car bomb attack in Baghdad. A suicide bomber killed 13 people in the attack near the heavily fortified area in central Baghdad housing the interim government and U.S. embassy.

tional Committee of the Red Cross, but were eating again by Monday, a U.S. military spokesman said. The former dictator never joined the protest. "They don't acknowledge the legality of their trials or their detention," said the lawyer, Badee Ezzat Aref, an Iraqi appointed by the family of former Deputy Prime Minister Tario Aziz.

It was impossible to say if the apparent protest was timed to the anniversary of Saddam's capture. The detainees have been held for months in an undisclosed location, believed to be near the Baghdad International Airport, west of the canital

In Rome, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari assured Pope John Paul II that Saddam and other former regime members would be treated fairly and brought to trial as soon as possible after the January elections.

"The same justice they denied us we are going to give it to them," he said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Pre

As of Sunday, at least 1,289 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,007 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians

military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Po-land, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

each.

Since May 1, 2003, when
President Bush declared that
major combat operations in
Iraq had ended, 1,151 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 898 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's num-

The latest deaths reported by the military:

A U.S. Marine was killed

Sunday in action in Anbar province.

A U.S. soldier was killed Saturday by a roadside bomb in Baghdad's northern sub-

urbs.
The latest identifications re

ported by the military:

Army Chief Warrant Officer Patrick D. Leach, 39, Rock
Hill S.C. and Army 1st It An-

Hill, S.C., and Army 1st Lt. Andrew C. Shields, 25, Campobello, S.C.
Both soldiers were killed
Thursday in a helicopter acci-

Thursday in a helicopter accident in Mosul, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment, South Carolina National Guard, Columbia, S.C.

Newspaper: Guard soldiers more likey to die in Iraq than active-duty troops

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Unlike in past wars, National Guard soldiers are about one-third more likely to be killed in Iraq than their full-time counterparts on active duty, a USA Today analysis of Pentagon statistics shows.

According to figures furnished by the military branches, the active Army has sent about 250,000 soldiers to Iraq, and 622 have been killed. That works out to one death for every 402 soldiers who have deployed, USA Today reported in its Monday editions.

About 37,000 Army Guard soldiers who

About 37,000 Army Guard soldiers have been sent to Iraq and 140 have died there — one fatality for every 264 soldiers who have served, or about a 35 percent higher death rate.

There are several reasons for

the greater death rates among

Pentagon has called up thousands of part-time troops for tours of a year or more in Iraq. Some of the most dangerous missions, including driving convoys and guarding bases and other facilities, frequently are assigned to Guard and reserve troops.

so-called nart-time soldiers. The

Active-duty casualties have spiked during major battles such as the attack on Fallujah, largely carried out by Army and Marine troops. But such engagements have been rare since President Bush declared major combat over in May 2003.

The elevated death rates among part-time soldiers are a significant shift from the past, USA Today reported. During most wars in the last century, the full-time military took most of the casualties, and their troops were much more likely to die in battle than Guardsmen and reservists.

Mortar attack on U.S. base injures three Afghan soldiers

ne Associatea Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents rained mortar rounds on a U.S. base in Afghanistan, wounding three Afghan government soldiers, while American and Afghan officials announced Monday the arrests of 14 sussected Taliban.

Eleven mortar rounds fell near the base in southeastern Paktika province in the past 24 hours, a U.S. military spokesman said.

military spokesman said.

The wounded soldiers from the new U.S.-trained Afghan National Army were evacuated to a field hospital at a larger U.S. base in neighboring Khost prov-

ince and were in stable condition, said Maj. Mark McCann. No American soldiers were reported hurt in the in-

McCann said eight Taliban members were detained in a raid about a week ago in Char Cheno district of Central Uruzgan province after American forces received intelligence on their whereabouts.

One was believed to be a brother of the former Taliban governor of Kandahar, the southern city that was the hardline regime's capital. McCann declined to give his name. Afghan troops seized another six suspected Taliban in the same province on Saturday, Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Zaher Mohammed Azimi said. Two were Taliban commanders called Mullah Ghulam Nahim and Abdul Oadir. he said.

Azimi also reported the wounding of six Afghan civilians in an explosion Saturday near Asadabad, in eastern Kunar province. Three were taken to the main U.S. base at Bagram, north of Kabul, where they were recovering after treatment, he said.

The cause of the explosion was unclear, though the area has seen a spate of roadside bombings aimed at Afghan and U.S. security forces as well as clashes between rival Afghan factions.

About 18,000 mainly American troops continue to hunt militants in southern and eastern Afghanistan, three years after U.S. and allied forces ousted the hardline Taliban regime for harboring al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

The U.S.-led force last week began a fresh winter-long offensive aimed at weakening rebels ahead of parliamentary elections slated for the spring, and at persuading Taliban foot-soldiers to accept an Afeban government amnestv.

At Balad Air Base, it's service on the run



PHOTOS BY RON JENSEN/Stars and Strin

Senior Airman Roberto Vasquez of the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron (Aerial Port Flight) uses green glow sticks to guide a cargo loader to a C-17 aircraft ramp Sunday night at Balad Air



Airmen of the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron unload a C-17 cargo plane Sunday night at Balad Air Base. Because of the possibility of attack, the planes sometimes are unloaded in eight

Incoming planes outgoing in a matter of minutes

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Strines

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq They call themselves the Tailchasers, but not because they spend their days in fruitless pursuit of their own posteriors.

Instead, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron (Aerial Port Flight) members chase aircraft tails to quickly unload the cargo and get the aircraft airborne again.

"We always try to get them turned as quickly as we can, safely," said Capt, Rob Neal, the flight commander.

The team can unload a cavernous C-17 Globemaster, one of the largest planes in the inventory, in about a third of the time it takes at most stateside bases, Airman 1st Class Thomas Hill said. "Average, I would say eight

minutes, compared to a normal time of 30 to 35 minutes back home" at Dover Air Force Base Del., Hill said,

The chase is quite exciting to watch

The aircraft - be it a C-130 ercules, a C-141 Starlifter or a C-5 Galaxy - lands and taxis to a spot under the direction of Detachment 5, 721st Air Mobility Operations Group.

Airmen race to the plane with one or more K-loaders, the flat self-propelled vehicles on which aircraft's load is placed, or forklifts, whichever is required.

"To us, it's like a ballet. It's all choreographed," Tech. Sgt. Todd Lunge said. "I like just watching it sometimes

jumps on the opened ramp and begins signaling the K-loader to approach. Others climb aboard and, with the help of the aircraft crew, prepare the pallets for movement As one machine moves

away from the ramp with a load. another slips in. Observers of this flight line "Swan Lake" have to watch closely. The curtain falls in little more

44 To us, it's like a ballet. It's all choreographed.

Tech. Sgt. Todd Lungee

than the blink of an eye. The air-plane engines run the whole time airmen remove the cargo. The Air Force calls this an engine running offload.

And although there is no instant replay if you miss it, there's always another aircraft right be-

"A lot of times, we're running from one plane to another," Airman Derik Pitts said.

Hill remembered when four C-17s, two C-5s and three C-130s landed within a few minutes of each other. The race began anew. That's another difference from

back home. At Dover and other stateside bases, the airmen have some idea of when to expect an aircraft. "Here," Hill said, "they just

drop out of the sky.

"First come, first served," Pitts

It is hard to compare them with other aerial ports in the Air

Force.

No one really keeps track of such things, but Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and Dover are considered the busiest

"I can guarantee you, we're a lot busier than Charleston," Neal said. Plus, he said, he has a fraction — perhaps a quarter — of the people back home.

Lunge said, however, that the effort can get out of hand. That's when injuries occur.

"One at a time," "That's what I tell them. We don't take safety for granted.

There's another hitch in the effort. Occasionally, Iraqi insurgents fire a mortar shell or rocket from beyond the wire, interrupt-

ing the loading process. "We're all out here and -'Boom! What was that?" Lunge

Work stops, of course, and "everybody runs for cover," Neal

Because of the attacks, the aircraft crews don't like to dawdle. Their aircraft make large, invit-

ing targets Some aircraft are often airborne again 21 minutes after landing. Neal said, meaning the aerial port flight at Balad has some very appreciative customers

"Oh yes, they care," he said of the flying crews. "They like it. They like the work we do."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: Jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Airmen become jacks-of-all-trades when servicing aircraft at Balad

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq - The airmen of Detachment 5, 721st Air Mobility Operations Group are like parking attendants.

They marshal the aircraft at Balad to the right spot on the ramp for unloading. Then they guide them out for takeoff It's a pretty standard Air Force task, said Maj.

Grant Izzi, the detachment commander, who is sta tioned at Guam. The mission is a little different in that the air-

craft don't stay on the ground very long," he said. For example, he said, a C-17 Globemaster might spend two or three hours at Ramstein Air Base. Germany, home of the 721st AMOG headquarters. "Normally, [at Balad] a C-17 is on the ground only 30 minutes or so," said Izzi, "It's a very high

volume, fast-paced ramp out here. I've never seen a pace like this He sees more C-5 Galaxies in Balad in one

week, he said, than he sees in Guam in one month. Plus, he said, his airmen handle 16 different types of military and civilian aircraft, more than they would see just about anywhere

The airmen also perform standard checks and needed maintenance on the planes to get them airborne again.

"I have many different flavors of personnel," he said of the nearly 40 people in the detachment. "I have F-15 guys, C-130 guys. I have F-16 guys. Of course, C-5, C-17 and the last of the C-141 guys

e C-141 Starlifter was phased out of active-duty service in September but is still used by some Air National Guard and Reserve units

One of Izzi's guys is Staff Sgt. Jason Harrell, an

F-15 crew chief stationed at Elmendorf, Alaska. Since arriving at Balad, he has guided and worked on more aircraft than ever before in his six-year Air Force career

"It's an experience I never could have gotten [anywhere else]," Harrell said. "I'll probably never mess with some of them ever again.

Although the detachment includes personnel with skills for nearly every military aircraft — they don't touch the civilian planes — some people were cross-trained to handle tasks outside their specialty.

Some learn to refuel various aircraft, others to replenish the oxygen tanks. Still others learn how to tow aircraft they've never towed before.

Like everyone at Balad and the adjoining Logis-tics Support Area Anaconda, the airmen of the 721st AMOG have to deal with rocket and mortar

"When we hear the red alert, we have to get ev-erybody off the ramp," Harrell said. After an attack, they must search the flight line and ramp for any unexploded ordnance

The attacks notwithstanding, Harrell said, the airmen feel like they are part of the fight to clear Iraq of insurgents. The cargo they help bring to the country is directly related to that effort.

"I feel I am [helping out]," he said. "I'm sure everybody does. I hope they do."

Izzi said he knows his airmen feel a part of the fight. He has seen them volunteer to load patients onto the medical evacuation flights leaving the base regularly

"If nothing else does," he said, "that grabs you." Ron Jensen

6 GIs court-martialed for taking vehicles in Iraq

BY JOHN MCCARTHY The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — At a time when some U.S. troops in Iraq are complaining they have to scrounge for equipment, six Ohio-based reservists were court-martialed for taking Army vehicles abandoned in Kuwait by other units so they could carry out their own unit's mission to Iraq.

The soldiers say they needed the vehi-

cles, and parts stripped from one, to deliver fuel to Iraq, but their former battalion commander said Sunday the troops should at least have returned the vehicles to their original units.

Members of the 656th Transportation Company based in Springfield, west of Columbus, said they needed the equipment to deliver fuel that was needed by U.S. forces in Iraq for everything from helicopters to The reservists took two tractor-trailers and stripped parts from a five-ton truck that had been abandoned in Kuwait by other units that had already moved into Iraq, one of the reservists, Darrell Birt of Columbus said Sunday

Birt, a former chief warrant officer, and the others were charged with theft, destruction of Army property and conspiracy to cover up their crimes.

Birt said he and two others pleaded

guilty and the other three were convicted

"Nobody ever reported these trucks stolen. The deal was, when you are moving, if it was going to take more than 30 minutes to fix it, you left it," said Birt, who was released in November.

"I'm a Christian man and I can't ignore what we did, but it was justified to get us in the fight and to sustain the fight."

Year after Saddam was captured, trial prospects uncertain

BY NICK WADHAMS

BAGHDAD — In the year since he was captured and hustled away to a secret location, Saddam Hussein has taken up gardening, undergone a hernia operation and written poetry that one visitor describes as "rubbishv."

What he has not done is meet with any of the 20 lawyers claiming to represent him. And with the country in the grips of an insurgency, predicting when Iraq's most famous prisoner will be tried is no easier now than it was on the day he was pulled from his hiding spot in a spider hole near his hometown of Tikrit.

When Saddam first appeared before an Iraqi court in July, some officials predicted a swift trial. Ever since, they have said October, November or December. Now, they expect it no earlier than the beginning of 2006, Iraq's National Security Adviser Mouwafak al-Rubaie said.

"This is going to be probably the trial of the century and we have to get it right," al-Rubaie said. "We can't suddenly try him and sentence him to either life in prison or whatever, execute him 100 times as some people want to do."

American officials with the Department of Justice's Regime Crimes Liaison Office are advising the Iraqi Special Tribunal on the process of bringing Saddam to trial. The Americans paid the tribunal's budget of \$75 million for 2004-2005. But with elections approaching Jan. 30, the Iraqi government is in flux and likely to stay that way for another year until a new constitution is drafted and another round of elections is held in December 2005.

Trainers also face a dearth of qualified Iraqi prosecutors, defense lawyers and judges. If proper attorneys are found, they assume a new kind of risk — threats from the guerrillas, believed to be mostly Sunni Muslims like Saddam, or others trying to stymie the trial

Few Iraqi lawyers are willing to represent Saddam, while prosecutors fear challenging him. The same goes for the judges overseeing the case. slowing its work.

"At various points in time they have had a number of judges who have since withdrawn," said Hania Mufti, a spokeswoman for New York-based Human Rights Watch who has followed the case. "So that's been a practical problem on the ground."

That fact has been sobering for the Americans, who predicted Saddam's capture would cripple the insurgency. They portrayed violence immediately after his capture as the last gasp of desperate lovalists.



In July, Saddam Hussein appeared in a courtroom at Camp Victory, at a former palace on the outskirts of Baghdad. In the year since Saddaw assa captured and hustled away to a secret location, officials say the work of gathering evidence, documents, mass grave sites, and testimony from victims, continues away from the public eye.

"Saddam's era is over," the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. Richard Myers, said days after Saddam was captured. "But it takes time for people to accept the changes."

Since then, the guerrillas have continued exacting a bloody toll against U.S. troops and their Iraqi

The United States is increasing troop levels to 150,000, higher than they were when the war began, in hopes of providing safety for next month's elections.

Saddam first appeared before the court July 1, without a lawyer. He was presented with seven

He was presented with seven preliminary charges that included gassing thousands of Kurds in 1988, the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the suppression of 1991 revolts by Kurds and Shiites, the murders of religious and political leaders and the mass displacement of Kurds in the 1980s.

Eleven other defendants were arraigned with him. Eight of Saddam Hussein's 11

Digital to Bactana Transchar Transchar Transchar Transchar to the place of the Red Cross, but they were eating again by Monday, a U.S. military spokesman said. The former dictator had never joined the protest,

Associated Press reporter Jamal Halab in Amman, Jordan, contributed to this report.

the spokesman said.

Iraq leader knocks security decisions

The Associated Press

LONDON — Iraq's interim President Ghazi al-Yawer said in an interview broadcast Monday that the U.S.-led coalition was wrong to dismantle the Iraqi security forces.

"Definitely dissolving the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior was a big mistake at that time," al-Yawer told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

"We could have screened people out instead of screening them in and this could have saved us a lot of hassle and problems," he said. The BBC said it spoke to al-Yawer in London, where he was briefly stopping after a visit to the United States.

Critics of the U.S.-led invasion say the decision to disband the 400,000-strong Iraqi army and to purge the state of members of Saddam Hussein's Baath party has contributed to chaos and helped fuel insurgency in post-war Iraq.

Al-Yawer said the security situation wouldn't be resolved unless Iraq's own security forces were "100 percent efficient."

"As soon as we have efficient security forces that we can depend on we can see the beginning of the withdrawal of forces from our friends and partners and I think it doesn't take years, it will take months," he said.

USAID director defends pace of Iraq reconstruction

BY NICK WADHAMS
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A top USAID official acknowledged Monday that Iraqis have reasons to be impatient with the pace of reconstruction since the U.S.-led war to oust Saddam Hussein, but said \$4.3 billion had been earmarked for projects and promised improve-

ment despite the insurgency.

Andrew Natsios, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, detailed several projects under way in Iraq, including construction of 13 water-treatment plants and a

major new power station, as well as hundreds of schools, firehouses, clinics and police stations.

But he insisted the most important work in Iraq isn't necessarily visible, including building institutions, getting civil society groups off the ground and doing preventive maintenance.

"The most important work we do is not the physical infrastructure, even though I know all of you like to report on it," Natsios told a news conference inside the Green Zone, the highly fortified area home to the U.S. Embassy and other government offices in Baghdad. But Natsios, fielding pointed questions from Arabic-speaking journalists about reconstruction, defended more visible U.S. work, which some Iraqis say is taking far too long. He said it takes months to build power plants.

He spoke in the middle of a power outage that cut electricity to a large swath of the country. Baghdad went dark, though power in the Green Zone is supplied by generators and was not cut. "I know people are impatient," Natsios said. "They have a reason to be impatient, but I think progress is being made and the money is being spent appropriately."

Iraq's infrastructure fell into near ruin under years of U.N. sanctions and was further crippled in the U.S.-led invasion and its aftermath. Iraq's insurgents have frequently targeted reconstruction projects, bombing schools, clinics and community

centers sometimes days after

they're built.

Natsios said USAID had earmarked \$86 million to support Iraq's electoral commission and nongovernment organizations ahead of Jan 30 elections. He said 9,000 Iraqi businesses have been registered, and 35,000 Iraqis were employed in construction work with contracts through his agency. "There is an insurgency going

on," Natsios said. "However, Iraqis I have met with are determined to rebuild their country and establish the foundation for enduring democracy."

He also pointed to a "university linkages" program connecting five Iraqi universities with five in the United States and five in Europe, which he said was "one of the most important things we're doing."

Natsios said that of the \$5.3 billion USAID has allocated, \$4.3 billion had been assigned to specific projects so far.

New movie highlights 1st AD's Iraq mission

'Gunner Palace' to show in stateside theaters in February

BY TERRY BOYD Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany - Filmmaker Michael Tucker is perplexed.

The Berlin-based documentary maker asks why America doesn't seem to care about the Iraq war or the American sol-diers who are fighting it.

America, he says, has lost interest in the war and turned the channel to "Survivor" and "American Idol."

"My friends say, 'You're obsessed with this war.' "Tucker said in a telephone interview from his Berlin office. "I say, 'How can you not be?' The American people have no idea what life is like for these soldiers

Tucker, a Seattle native, has channeled his obsession into "Gunner Palace," the first feature-length film about the Iraq war; a film that he says is from the perspective of the soldiers themselves

It's a film that may do for the 1st Armored Division's 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment - nicknamed "Gun-- what HBO's "Band of Brothers" did for Easy Company of the 101st Airborne Division: Make them into American

The movie is set to open Feb. 11 in six U.S. markets, then expand the following week to 15 markets. Tucker said he hones to have pre-release screenings next month at major U.S. posts, such as Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Drum, N.Y., but those plans are not yet complete.

Tucker spent a total of two months between September 2003 and April 2004 living with the unit at what soldiers call "Odai's Love Shack," a partially bombed-out palace on the Euphrates River where Saddam Hussein's son, Odai, brought paramours for trysts.

The regiment set up headquarters at the palace complex, which they nicknamed "Gunnerland," while patrolling Al-Adhamiya, one of the most volatile sections of Baghdad. Tucker accompanied soldiers



Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery soldiers pose outside one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in Al-Adhamiva.

on countless missions and simply hung out with the troops. He said that left him with a sympathetic view of his soldiers that strongly runs counter to an image colored by soldiers' abuses of Iraqi captives at Abu Ghraib prison.

"I tended to give soldiers the benefit of the doubt," he said. "They didn't 'sandbag' detainees (place sandbags over their heads). It shocked me you didn't see rougher treatment of detainees" given the constant threat level."

He did see, over time, mounting frustration among troops over the language barri-er, and the fatigue of working nearly around the clock.

"It's a bunch of 20-year-old kids who just want to survive," he said.

Gunnerland was a world between the reality of raids and attacks and the "real" world via the Internet, phones and the media, Tucker said. There were the funny moments, when soldiers would pull up to find suspects conveniently waiting to be caught, and darker moments when the U.S. troops rammed Humvees into houses, only to find out they had the wrong targets, he

Tucker said his goal is to show Americans — without being voyeuristic, political or patronizing — a world that he finds inspiring and terrifying.

He quotes one of the men he calls "soldier/poets:" "It's like (Spc.) Richmond Shaw said — 'For y'all this is just a show, but we live in this movie."

Tucker and his partner, Petra Epperlein, have shown "Gunner Palace" at the Telluride Film Festival in Colorado and the Toronto Film Festival in Canada to enthusias-

It was painful getting to know and re-spect soldiers and officers such as Sgt. Mai, Eric F. Cooke and Capt. Ben Colgan before they died in separate attacks, he

After that, he said, he couldn't make 'something rah-rah." But neither could he make a film disrespectful of soldiers. Tucker said: "I most like that it shows them being them.'

Tucker succeeded in keeping the film apolitical," said Jon Powers, 26, a former 2-3 Field Artillery captain, now a schoolteacher in Buffalo, N.Y.

'It's a great movie ... for soldiers to see, and ... for their families and friends to see if they want to understand what we went through for 14 months," said Powers, who saw "Gunner Palace" at the Toronto Film Festival in September.

The film is, he said, an accurate depiction of daily life made by a filmmaker given extraordinary access by Lt. Col. Bill Rabena, the battalion commander, Attempts by Stars and Stripes to reach Rabena were unsuccessful

"People always ask me if there was censorship; if I had trouble getting access and

all those issues," Tucker said.

Instead, he said, he had unrestricted access to soldiers in their off hours, to all missions and even to interrogations of suspected Iraqi insurgents. "They embraced your being there," Tucker said. "People just want their story told."

Whether the regiment's soldiers will be able to go to the local base theater to watch themselves on the big screen remains un-clear. Army and Air Force Exchange Service executives say that's unlikely, unless a major distributor with whom AAFES has a contractural relationship picks up the film. and it goes into wide release, said Judd Anstey, media branch manager at AAFES

headquarters in Dallas. Viewers should be prepared for what Powers calls "some down-and-dirty" footage, including a scene where soldiers are "playing guitars and basically hanging a peaceful moment interrupted by a mortar attack. "But once [the audience] gets over the shock, it will get a conversation started. ... The guys who went with me to see it said, 'Is that what it was really like?!' ... I said, 'Yeah.' "

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boydt@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Pakistan denies allowing CIA on its soil to hunt for bin Laden

BY MUNIR AHMAD

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - Pakistan on Monday said there was no evidence that al-Qaida chief Osama hin Laden is hiding in the country, and denied it had allowed CIA agents to set up bases along its border to hunt the terror mastermind.

Pakistani and American generagree that the trail for the al-Qaida leader has gone cold more than three years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the Unit-

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan said bin Laden had not been seen anywhere, and scoffed at reports he might be hiding in Chitral, in the country's scenic north.

"Osama bin Laden has not been sighted in Chitral or in any other part of Pakistan," Khan said, adding, "there are no operations being conducted by U.S. forces inside Pakistan." President Gen. Pervez Mushar-

raf has previously acknowledged that a small number of American experts were working with Pakistani troops in operations against al-Oaida militants.

But he has denied that U.S. forces — deployed in neighboring Afghanistan — are actively hunting bin Laden in Pakistan

A report in Monday's New York Times, citing anonymous U.S. officials, said the CIA had set up small bases along the border in late 2003, but that the operatives were being hampered by uncoonerative Pakistani minders It said the CIA had concluded bin Laden was being sheltered by tribesmen and foreign militants in northwestern Pakistan, and that he could be aiming to launch United States. The issue is a sensitive one for

Musharraf, who is under pressure at home from hard-liners opposed to his strong ties with Wash-

There are no CIA cells in Pakistan ... in our tribal areas, and there is absolutely no truth in this New York Times report," said army spokesman Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan.

Some believe bin Laden is hiding along the rugged border

In an interview televised Sun-day, Afghan President Hamid arzai said bin Laden was "definitely" in the region, but didn't say where.

A senior Pakistani counterter rorism official said Monday U.S. officials had not found intelligence on bin Laden's whereabouts, although their informahad helped nab some al-Qaida suspects in Pakistan.

Rights group: 2 more Afghan detainees die in U.S. custody

By Stephen Graham The Associated Press

Afghanistan Human Rights Watch said Monday it had uncovered two more cases of prisoners dving in American custody in Afghanistan, and it accused the Bush administration of "dragging its feet" on investigations that could have prevented the abuse

In an open letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, the New York-based rights group said it had new evidence of "an alleged murder of a de-

of prisoners in Iraq.

tainee by four U.S. military personnel" in Afghanistan in 2002. More recently, it said a man picked up on Sept. 24, 2004, died the next day at an American base, but it did not specify the cause of death.

"It's time for the United States to come clean about crimes committed by U.S. forces in Afghanistan," said Brad Adams, the group's Asia division director. "The United States has to get serious about prosecuting people implicated in prisoner deaths and mistreat-

U.S. military officials in Af-ghanistan had no immediate comment on the alleged new cases highlighted in the letter.

But Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. John Skinner said defense officials went to "enormous lengths to investigate any credi-ble allegations of detainee

"We've looked at detention op erations from A to Z," he said, without specifically discussing the cases ra raised by Human

Military investigators are already examining the deaths of several prisoners in U.S. custody here, but have released few of their findings



2004 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas www.cfcoverseas.org





Have you

Made a World of Difference
by contributing to the 2004 CFC-O?



Complete your pledge card today and support the causes most important to you.



Your 2004 Pledge Card
Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas
Give through 15 December



Make a World of Difference

CFC-O GIVEAWAY SUPPORT THE CFC-O AND HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THREE GREAT PRIZES

Special thanks to Exchange New Car Sales and DaimlerChrysler for donating the FIRST PRIZE, and to GEICO for donating the SECOND and THIRD PRIZES, CPC-O appreciates



SECOND PRIZE 2 Airline Tickets

> THIRD PRIZE \$1,000 Savings Bond

DIRECT

Visit us at **GEICO.com** for overseas locations and phone numbers In the U.S. call

In the U.S. call 1-800-947-AUTO

The only car-buying program created by the military for the military.

Look for us on base.

The 2004 CFC-O is conducting a Giveaway as part of this year's campaign. By completing a pledge card, whether you donate or not, you are eligible to win. Winners will be randomly selected in March 2005 and notified by phone and/or in writing by the CFC-O. Enter now and win!

IN THE STATES

Rehnquist to skip voting on some cases

By GINA HOLLAND

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist has bowed out of voting in some of the Supreme Court cases he missed this fall while receiving treatment for thyroid cancer, a court

spokeswoman said Monday.
Rehnquist, who has been absent from the bench for nearly
two months, will not vote in cases
that were heard in November, unless the remaining eight justices
are deadlocked. He does plan to
participate in the cases argued in
December, Supreme Court
spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said.

The amouncement came after the Supreme Court released four opinions, two without Rehnquist's involvement. Monday was the Supreme Court's final work day before a nearly monthlong holiday break. Rehnquist, 80, has been working from his home in suburban Virginia while undergoing treatment. While he has not heard any arguments since October, he is briefed on the cases and

the expectation was he would

wote in them. With speculation swirling that Rehnquist could announce his retirement at any time, court observers were caught by surprise Friday when Arberg said Rehnquist had accepted President Bush's invitation to administer the oath of office at the Jan. 20 inauguration. By tradition, the chief justice swears in the president, and Rehnquist has participated in every inauguration since becoming chief justice in 1986.

Some of the court's biggest cases so far this year were argued in October, when Rehnquist was on the bench. Among them: a challenge to the use of the death penalty for juvenile killers and a case that put in jeopardy the longtime rules for sentencing federal criminals. Rulings in both of those cases will come sometime after the court returns in January.

A high-profile November case in which Rehnquist won't vote, unless he has to break a tie, deals with standards for on-the-job age discrimination lawsuits.

Supreme Court rulings

Death-sentence appeals rejected

The Supreme Court ruled Monday that a Florida death row immate should not get a new trial eleven though his lawyer conceded the man's guilt without his consent. The high court also rejected an appeal from Texas death row immate Troy Kunkle, allowing his execution to proceed, even though one justice declared that Kunkle's sentence clearly violated the Constitution.

In the Florida case, the Supreme Court voted 8-0 to set aside a Florida Supreme Court decision in favor of Joe Elton Nixon. He was convicted in the 1984 murder of a woman he met at a Tallahassee

Florida prosecutors say Nixon tied Jeanne Bickner, a 38-year-old state worker, to trees with jumper cables and set her on fire.

In a 5-2 decision last year, the Florida Supreme Court ordered a new trial after finding he lawyer did not effectively represent Nixon and that the defendant did not agree to the lawyer's strategy. The Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal

The Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal from Kunkle, who was convicted of murdering a robbery victim nearly 20 years ago. His attorneys had argued that Kunkle's drug and alcohol abuse history was not properly considered as mitigating evidence at trial.

Pollution cleanup lawsuits limited

The Supreme Court on Monday put restrictions on companies that want to voluntarily clean up their polluted land and sue former owners to share the costs.

The court ruled 7-2 against a company that in 1981 bought land in Texas that had been used for air-craft engine maintenance businesses and then went to court to recover some of the \$\$5\$ million it spent

The justices said the company improperly tried to use the Superfund law to sue because the government had not demanded that the cleanup be done.

However, the court left open the possibility that another part of the Superfund law could permit such lawsuits.

The law allows the Environmental Protection Agency to designate as "Superfund" sites areas that are highly polluted, and then officials can seek money from current and former owners for the cleanup costs.

Monday's case involved a broad category of land, many thousands of properties, that have abandoned toxic plants, landfills and mines but are not a priority for the EPA.

was a mistake

From The Associated Press

cleaning up pollution there.

Bush honors GIs at holiday taping

BY KATA KERTESZ The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Christmas trees decorated with red bows, gold ornaments and white lights lined the hall at the National Building Museum for a holiday pageant attended President Bush and his wife, Laura.

The president spoke of the many servicemembers far from home during the holiday season. "These families and the troops they love can be certain that they have the support and gratitude of our nation."

Bush made his brief remarks Sunday night at a taping of the 23rd annual "Christmas in Washington" concert, which benefits the Children's National Medical Center in the nation's capital.

"We continue to seek the promise of peace on earth and goodwill toward men," Bush said.

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani was also in attendance. Giuliani is a close friend of Bernard Kerik, the former New York police commissioner who had been nominated to lead the Homeland Security Department. Questions about an immigration problem involving a family housekeeper led Kerik to withdraw his nomination Friday night.

The concert, hosted by Dr. Phil McGraw and his wife, Robin, will be broadcast Dec. 15 on the Tra cable network. Performers included country singer LeAnn Rimes, "American Ido" winner Ruben Jud dard and pop singers Michael McDonald, Vanessas Williams, Jolo, the American Family Choir, the U.S. Army Band Herald Trumpets, Ian Fraser and the "Christmas in Washington" orrichestra.



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush pose with elves, from left to right, Brook Allen and Marco and Milena Spencer Gallisa, before the start of the taping of the annual Christmas in Washington concert on Sunday in Washington.

Bush names new HHS chief

BY MARK SHERMAN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush chose Environmental Protection Agency chief Michael Leavitt on Monday to be secretary of Health and Human Services, filling one of the last two openings in his second-term Cabinet.

Bush praised Leavitt as a "fine executive" and "a man of great compassion. ... He's an ideal choice to lead one of the largest departments of the United States government."

Leavitt, Utah's governor before joining the Bush administration in late 2003, would succeed Tommy Thompson, who recently resigned.

Bush also has to name a new head of the Homeland Security Department to take the place of Bernard Kerik, who abruptly withdrew his nomination Friday night, citing immigration problems with a family housekeeper.

ems with a family housekeeper.

"He himself said he should

have brought it to our attention sooner," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. "Commissioner Kerik pointed out that this

During Monday's announcement, Leavitt, 53, thanked Bush for showing confidence in him. "I feel a real sense of understandable regret" about leaving the EPA, he said.

He said the department of Health and Human Services plays a vital part in the lives of every American.

"I look forward ... to the implementation of the Medicare prescription drug program in 2006, medical liability reform and finding ways to reduce the cost of health care," Leavitt said. "I am persuaded that we can use technology and innovation to meet our most noble aspirations and not compromise our other values that we hold so dear."

The HHS has a budget of more than \$500 billion and 67,000 employees.

Jurors in Peterson trial ask to review evidence

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF

REDWOOD CITY, Calif.— The jury deciding whether Scott Peterson should be executed or spend life in prison for killing his pregnant wife requested additional evidence Monday, including autopsy photos and aerial pictures of the bay where prosecutors said Peterson dumped the body.

The evidence request came about two hours into the third do of deliberations. The jury requested 13 pieces of evidence, including the widely publicized photograph of Laci Peterson wearing a red maternity pantsuit with her hands folded across her lap.

It was not immediately clear what the rest of the evidence was, but almost all of it was presented by the prosecution at trial.

"Obviously some jurors are still trying to persuade other jurors," said trial observer Jim Hammer, a former San Francisor prosecutior. "The fact that they're still working is good news for the prosecution because it means there's still the possibility of a death verdict."

NASA's chief O'Keefe turns in resignation

WASHINGTON — Sean O'Keefe, who has spent three tumultuous years running the nation's space program, resigned Monday. O'Keefe, 48, is a leading candidate to become the \$500,000-a-year chancellor of Louisiana State University's main campus in Baton Rouge. He will meet Thursday with search committee seeking to fill the job, the panel's chairman, Joel Tohline, said Sunday.

Glenn Mahone, chief NASA spokesman, said O'Keefe submitted a resignation letter on Monday to President Bush, who accepted it.

O'Keefe's tenure as administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration included the loss of the shuttle Columbia and its seven astronauts as well as budget battles and debates over the future of American space travel.

"Administrator O'Keefe has previously indicated to us that he is

planning on leaving," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. "The president believes he has done a great job over at NASA."

John Logsdon, director of George Washington University's space policy institute and a member of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, said the sense in the Washington space community, at least, was that O'Keefe had been eager to leave NASA.

From The Associated Press

Kerik's two extramarital affairs surface

BY RUSS BUETTNER New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Former New York Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik conducted two extramarital affairs simultaneously, using a secret Battery Park City apartment for the passionate liai-



Kerik

sons, the New York Daily News has learned. The first relationship, spanning

The first relationship, spanning nearly a decade, was with city Correction Officer Jeannette Pinero; the second was with famed

publishing titan Judith Regan.
His affair with Regan, the stunningly attractive head of her own book publishing company, lasted for almost a year.

Dramatically, each woman learned of the existence of the other after Pinero discovered a love note left by Regan in the

apartment.

The revelations about Kerik's private life come as repercussions over his suitability to be nominated for the post of secretary of homeland security. Kerik, 49, married with two children

Giuliani offers Bush an apology

WASHINGTON — Former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani, at a preplamed dimer with President Bush, offered apologies for the abortive nomination of close associate Bernard Kerik as homeland security secretary, a Giuliani spokes-

woman said.

Kerik, who was Giuliani's police commissioner and more recently a business associate, asked Bush to withdraw his nomination late Friday after questions about an immigration problem involving a family house-

from his current marriage, with-

drew his name from consider-

ation in a sudden and unexpected

call to the White House on Friday

the immigration status of his fami-

ly's former nanny and failure to

pay taxes prompted his decision

to walk away from the job. But

speculation has continued that

there were deeper and more con-

that a six-month investigation

showed Kerik had accepted thou-

sands of dollars in cash and gifts

On Sunday, The News reported

troversial reasons.

Kerik said that questions about

had been planned several weeks ago. "The president was very gracious," she said. "They remain good friends." Earlier Sunday, Bush and Giuliani attended the taping of the annual "Christmas in Wash ington" concert to be televised

Mindel said in New York that

the White House dinner Sunday

Earlier Sunday, Bush and Giuliani attended the taping of the annual "Christmas in Wash ington" concert, to be televised on the TNT cable network Dec. 15. White House spokeswoman Suzy DeFrancis said she could not comment on whether the two also had dinner.

The Associated Press

without proper disclosure, and had ties to a construction company that investigators believe is linked to the mob.

Now revelations about his private life also cast a shadow on his suitability for one of the administration's highest-profile cabinet

positions.

Asked about the affairs and the secret love nest Sunday, Joseph Tacopina, Kerik's attorney, said Kerik and Regan had denied the affair in the past.

Tacopina said Kerik's "friendship" with Pinero ended in 1996. But sources with knowledge of both affairs painted a picture of passionate, and sometimes volatile, liaisons.

The tumultuous Regan-Kerik romance carried on for months, through the writing, publication and promotion of his autobiography, "The Lost Son: A Life in Pursuit of Justice," which Regan's company published.

The two worked out together most mornings at the New York Sports Club in Rockefeller Center and often dined at Fresco restaurant in midtown, according to sources.

Kerik visited Regan's Central Park West apartment almost daily and occasionally stayed the night, with his police detail camped outside.

They became so close that Kerik's two nieces stayed with Regan while the commissioner's sister was hospitalized, one source said.

Regan visited the Battery Park apartment several times, the source said, but apparently never knew that his actual residence at that time was an apartment on E. 79th Struct

JYM Street. Furnished corporate rentals similar to the unit Kerik used, according to the sources, are advertised at monthly rents from \$3,150 to \$6,200. Representatives of Milstein Properties, which owns the Liberty View, could not be reached Sunday.

After one encounter, Regan left a romantic note, which was later discovered by Pinero. The two

later spoke on the phone.
"She wanted to know if Judith
was still seeing him," the source
said. "She told Regan about their
affair and Regan told her she was

shocked."

Many close to Kerik in the mid-1990s assumed that someday he would marry Pinero, a career correction officer described as spirited and attractive by friends, a close friend and a former high-ranking Correction Department source said.

The relationship continued after Kerik married Hala Matli, a hygienist in his dentist's office whom he met in mid-1996 and wed in November 1998, according to multiple sources close to Pinero and Kerik.

Kerik's affair with Pinero is at the center of two lawsuits against the city, both brought by correction employees who claimed Kerik retaliated after they crossed her. The city settled one last year for \$250,000, The News reported at the time.

The second suit, in which Pinero and Kerik were deposed last week, was filed by former Deputy Warden Eric DeRavin III, who claims Kerik quashed his promotion after he reprimanded Pinero. The city demanded a gag order on both depositions.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit www.stripes.com.

This is just a small token of appreciation, a way to say...





Please visit the site at www.stripes.com and click on the America Supports You button to view the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes as well!







draw attention to controversial election results that gave President Bush a slim victory in the state.

Activist groups challenge election results in Ohio

BY JOHN MCCARTHY

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Dissident groups asked the Ohio Supreme Court on Monday to review the outcome of the state's presidential race, hours before the Ohio delegation to the Electoral College was to cast ballots for president and vice president.

The groups question whether President Bush won the key swing state by 119,000 votes, guaranteeing his victory over Democrat Sen. John Kerry.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson and attorney Cliff Arnebeck of the Massachusetts-based Alliance for Democracy accused President Bush's campaign of "high-tech vote stealing

Jackson said the challengers noticed Bush generally received more votes in counties that use optical-scan voting machines and questioned whether the machines were calibrated to record votes for Buch

The dissidents claim there vere disparities in vote totals for Democrats, too few voting machines in Democrat-leaning precincts, organized campaigns directing voters to the wrong polling place and confusion over the counting of provisional ballots by voters whose names did not appear in the records at polling plac-

If the court decides to hear the challenge, it can declare a new winner or throw out the results The challengers also planned to ask the court to stop the Electoral College delegation's vote until their case can be decided.

Protesters had been expected to demonstrate outside the Canitol as Electoral College delegates ber, but none were present as the vote began at midday

Congressional Democrats sent a letter to Republican Gov. Bob Taft on Monday, asking him to delay the Electoral College vote or at least consider the results unofficial until the disputes are resolved

Taft spokesman Orest Holubec said the governor would not postpone the vote or treat it as provi-

"The vote is required to move forward by law, and it will more forward," Holubec said. "The vote has been certified by the secretary of state, and all of the valid provisionals have been counted.

Kerry issued a statement last week saying reported voting problems should be investigated to ensure there are no doubts in future elections. His campaign does not dispute that Bush won the election, but supports the recounts.

80-year-old man survives more than 18 hours in ocean

RV ADDIAN SAINZ The Associated Press MIAMI - By the time spear

fisherman Ignacio Siberio realized his boat had drifted away in the chilly waters off the Florida Kevs. it was too late to signal for

Instead, the 80-year-old who dives nearly every weekend called on his instincts, mustering his mental and physical strength to move his legs underwater to prevent hypothermia.

As night fell, the temperature dropped to around 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Winds picked up from the north, churning the seas and tossing Siberio around as he clung to a buoy.

"You have to concentrate mentally in an extraordinary way so that you don't get to the point that the cold, the danger and the fact you are helpless make you quit," Siberio said. "When you quit, its

Siberio, a lawyer who immigrated to the United States from Cuba, had gone to one of his favorite spear fishing spots off Taverna on Saturday morning. By about

2:30 p.m. he noticed the boat was no longer anchored. He furiously swam after the boat for about three miles before giving up, grabbing a buoy to a lobster trap and watching his boat drift away in roughly

300-foot-deep waters. Siberio had to apply all he knew just to live, and spent more than 18 hours holding on to the buoy in the cold, rough ocean before he was found by a relative Sunday, ending an exhaustive

search in the Atlantic

Flu-shot scare illustrates level of U.S. terror fears

Siberio's great nephew, Carols Lopez, was on a friend's boat when they spotted the elderly man swimming to shore early

"I'm feeling OK, but I got back home pretty beaten up, because I was all night and all day in one spot without moving," Siberio

said in a telephone interview. He insists he survived with the help of a wetsuit and instincts developed from more than 60 years

of free diving and spear fishing. He did not require hospitalization, but was recovering at his weekend home in Tavernier.

Coast Guard Petty Officer John Zarr was on duty during the two-day search for Siberio.

"That's pretty amazing. He's not to be in excellent physical condition," Zarr said Sunday.

The day he went missing, Siberio's wife called Lopez to ask if they were together. Lopez realized there may be trouble and called the Coast Guard, which initiated a search Siberio's family grew even

more worried Sunday morning, when the Coast Guard found his boat about 23 miles east of Elliott Key - roughly more than 40 miles from where Siberio began diving Saturday.
At around 2 a.m., the Coast

Guard stopped its search. But Siberio didn't stop fighting. And, sometime in the night. Siberio kicked something "large and hard, a large animal."

"I don't know what it was. I was more worried about making it through the night," Siberio said. He battled until after daybreak. when he began swimming to

Lopez marveled at the strength of his great uncle, and said medical personnel were concerned when they checked Siberio's heart rate after his rescue.

shore.

"The paramedic said, 'Your heartbeat is slow.' He answered, That's my normal heart rate. Lopez said.

Winds wreck havoc

ST. PAUL, Minn. - High winds on Sunday toppled a 25-foot Christmas tree in the front yard of the Minnesota governor's mansion, uproofed other and knocked down power lines in that state and Iowa.

Heavy sustained winds and

gusts of up to 65 mph led the National Weather Service to issue wind warnings or advisories for much of both states Reporter dead at 49

SACRAMENTO Calif Webb Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative re porter who wrote a controversial series of stories linking the CIA to crack cocaine traffick ing in Los Angeles, has died at age 49. Webb was found Friday at

his home in Sacramento Coun-ty dead of an apparent suicide. Movers called authorities after discovering a note posted on his front door that read. ease do not enter. Call 911 and ask for an ambulance."

By Joshua Freed The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS - The woman offering flu shots for \$20 in the commons area at Augsburg col-lege seemed plausible enough green scrubs, white lab coat, stethoscope — that some three dozen people willingly paid their money, rolled up their sleeves and let her plunge the needle in

But no one had scheduled a flu clinic. No one knew who woman was. And no one could be sure what was in those syringes.

She turned out to he 33-year-old Michelle Torgerson, a freelancing nurse who claims she was selling leftover vaccine to raise money for a fund-raiser at her daughter's school. And those shots were certainly nothing sinister, if not just plain old flu shots, lab tests have found.

But in an age when bioterrorism experts worry about sophisticated attacks, the case shows how anyone with a syringe and a rea-sonable looking get-up can have notential victims lining up even paving — to be injected with who-knows-what.

"Imagine if they hadn't been able to track her down, and they had no idea, and somebody had

inst come onto a college campus injecting peowith something," Ďr. Michael Os-

said terholm. a bioterrorism expert with the National Center Food Protection and De

Torgerson fense at the University of Minne-

Osterholm said it's not realistic to expect patients to challenge the credentials of every nurse who administers a flu shot - but he said the school should have. "I think this really is at the center of the

discussion about what does it mean to recognize and report suspicious behavior," he said.

On Dec. 2 a staffer confronted Torgerson, asking who she was and who her supervisor was, according to Augsburg security di-rector John Pack.

Pack said he and another security worker headed toward the commons to investigate, "At that point I wasn't thinking whether or not it was malicious or a mixup," Pack said. "I was think-ing about the scope — I wondered how many people received shots."

Torgerson, of suburban Albertville, had left the campus promising the staffer she would provide the name of a supervisor, Pack said. But the security director said she never did, further

raising suspicions.

Torgerson gave a different account Sunday, saying she did speak briefly to an administrator "Diane," but that she wasn't challenged. She said she left after the noon hour, as she had planned and did not "abruptly" leave, as officials have said.

Pack called police, and then set about trying to find out how many people had been injected. He sent an e-mail alert to everyone on campus, and printed red fliers asking anyone who had gotten the shots to come forward. Teachers read the alert in class the next

Police arrested Torgerson the day after the injections were discovered, near her ex-husband's home in Belgrade, 90 miles away from the college.

Torgerson, a licensed practical nurse who had given immunizations as part of a legitimate clinic at Augsburg last month, insisted Sunday she did nothing wrong She said she believed she did have permission from an Augsburg administrator in charge of the student center to give the flu shots on her most recent visits to the school.

Torgerson has not been charged.



Melissa Hedden holds a sign outside the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus during a rally earlier this month to

Golden Globes go 'Sideways'

Road-trip film's seven nominations leads contenders

BY DAVID GERMAIN The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. -The road-trip flick "Sideways" led Golden Globe contenders Monday with seven nominations, including best musical or comedy film, three acting nominations and best director.

The Howard Hughes biography "The Aviator" was second with six nominations including best dramatic feature, two acting nominations and best director.

Other best drama nominees were the caustic sex tale "Closer;" "Finding Neverland," story of Peter Pan creator J.M. Barrie; "Hotel Rwanda," a tale set against the genocide in that country; "Kinsey," a film biography of sex researcher Alfred Kinsey; and the boxing saga "Million Dollar Baby.

Along with "Sideways," best musical or comedy nominees were the whimsical romance "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind;" the animated superhero adventure "The Incredibles;" "The Phantom of the Opera,"

Sept - Oct Specials

Atlanta..... \$ 310

New York..... \$ 310

New Orleans...... \$ 389

Tampa..... \$ 349

Los Angeles...... \$ 360

San Francisco..... \$ 349

Chicago...... \$ 310

Vacations by Air

Egypt 1week EU 1050 Russig 1 week \$ 1290

CRUISES EU 399 up

Istanbul \$ 329up

TOP TOURistik

Thanksgiving in



Actor Brendan Fraser announces some of the nominations Monday for the 62nd Annual Golden Globes in Beverly Hills, Calif.

adapted from the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical: and the Ray Charles film biography "Ray.

"Ray" star Jamie Foxx was nominated for best musical or comedy actor for that film and received two other nominations: supporting actor for "Collateral" as a taxi driver whose cab is hijacked by a hit man, and as best actor in a TV movie or miniseries

for "Redemption. "The Aviator" star Leonardo Di-Caprio earned a nomination as best dramatic actor for his role as Hughes. Other nominees were Javier Bardem as a paralyzed man seeking the right to die in "The Sea Inside," Don Cheadle as a hotel manager sheltering refugees in "Hotel Rwanda." Johnny Depp as playwright Barrie in "Finding Neverland" and Liam Neeson as the title character in Kinsey

Dramatic lead actress nomiees were Scarlett Johansson in "A Love Song for Bobby Long." playing a teen who finds an unlikely extended family; Nicole

Kidman as a woman visited by a boy claiming to be her dead husband in "Birth;" Imelda Staunton as the title character in the abortion drama "Vera Drake:" Hilary Swank as a boxer in "Million Dol-lar Baby;" and Uma Thurman as a vengeful former assassin in "Kill Bill — Vol. 2."

Along with Foxx, "Sideways' star Paul Giamatti was nominated for best actor in a musical or comedy for his role as a loser in love on a road trip with a buddy. Other nominees: Jim Carrey as a man who pays to have memories of his ex-girlfriend erased in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," Kevin Kline as composer Cole Porter in "De-Lovely" and Kevin Spacey as singer Bobby Darin in "Beyond the Sea."

Musical or comedy actress nominees were Annette Bening as a London stage diva in "Being Julia," Ashley Judd as composed Porter's wife in "De-Lovely." Forter's wife in "De-Lovely," Emmy Rossum as a musical stage ingenue in "The Phantom of the Opera," Kate Winslet as Carrey's ex-girlfriend in "Eternal Sun-shine of the Spotless Mind" and Renee Zellweger as the title char-acter in the romantic sequel Bridget Jones: The Edge of Rea-

Three of the best actress nominees for TV musical or comedy series were co-stars of ABC's smash hit "Desperate House-wives": Marcia Cross, Teri Hatcher and Felicity Huffman. The other nominees were Debra Messing of "Will & Grace" and Sarah Jessica Parker for "Sex and the

Best TV drama series picks were "24," "Deadwood," "Lost," "Nip/Tuck" and "The Sopranos. Best comedy series nominees were "Arrested Development," "Desperate Housewives," "Entou-"Sex and the City" and "Will & Grace."

Golden Globes are handed out by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a comparatively small group of about 90 reporters for overseas news outlets.

The Globes feature 13 categories for film and 11 for television. awards, the Globes have separate

Unlike other major movie divisions for dramas and comedies or musicals in the best-nicture and lead-acting categories.



Roger and Imogene Gorsuch, shown at their home in Chattanooga Tenn., have had more than 200 foster children placed in their home over the years, along with four children of their own. The 86-year-olds have finally decided to call it quits.

Foster parents retire after helping 233 kids

BY BILL POOVEY The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. The walls and tabletops in Roger and Imogene Gorsuch's home are lined with photos of their extra children - all 233 of them.

After 45 years as foster par-ents, taking in mostly infants and toddlers of many nationalities and skin colors, the 86-year-old couple finally decided to call it quits.

"It's all been good." said Roger Gorsuch, a retired printer. Of course he would say that, his wife of 67 years jokes. gone most of the time." "He was

The state Children's Services Department does not know if taking in 233 children is a state record, but they are sure the Chattanooga couple have been a blessing for those in need. We had been married 20

years, and life was good," Imogene Gorsuch wrote in a diary, describing the decision to start taking in children in the late 1950s. The pair also raised three sons and a daughter of their own.

"Blessed with a comfortable home, adequate income and everything we needed, we had a desire to share this with others less fortunate," Imogene Gorsuch wrote.

Sometimes there were six fos ter children at a time Some arrived at their modest home with broken bones and bruises from beatings. Some stayed only

months; one girl stayed 15 years. Crystal Hopper McCoun, 28, was among the children taken in by the Gorsuch family "because, as far as I know, my mother and father just had an unstable mar-

McCoun lived in foster care until she was adopted as a 5-year-old.

Even though we were aware of being not a typical family home, it felt like one with them," she said. "I can still call them my parents. I still have a deep love for them

The children were a source of joy, but it wasn't always easy. Roger Gorsuch recalled one fos-

ter child who was returned to her natural parents, but later called and begged he and his wife to come and get her. "And we couldn't," he said.

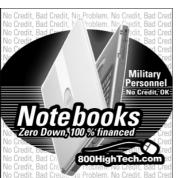
The couple also said they

stopped attending the children's court hearings because it was so frustrating when a judge wouldn't listen to their recommendations.

"There was no use going and getting up to be let down," he

Cathy Shell, 55, said she was 8 years old when her parents

opened their home to strangers.
"It was a good life," their daughter said. "We just had more brothers and sisters.



Bush portrait at exhibition controversial

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - A portrait of President Bush, made up of small pictures of chimpanzees, was removed from an art exhibition in Chelsea Market after the market's managers complained about

The painting by Christopher Savido appears to be the president from far away. But close up the tiny chimpanzee images can be seen clearly.

Bucky Turco, the show's orga nizer, said he had the work cleared for display with Irwin Cohen, a Chelsea Market direcdispleased with the picture.

"When we hung the show on Wednesday, we were asked to take down the Bush piece." Turco told The New York Times in Monday editions

"I agreed but said I thought it makes a strong addition and I would re-hang it for the opening.

But when Turco did, and the exhibition was opened, the gallery crowd also included a disc jockey and an open bar, inviting a nightclub environment. A market manager then told Turco the show was over and called security to clear the event.

"I said, 'Let's walk and talk this over,' and when we passed Chris' painting, he flipped," said Turco. The manager threatened to have him arrested, seize the art and evict him from his office.

Although Turco wrote the management the next day, he was forced to remove the 60 artworks on Saturday.

Savido said that the rancor over the painting made him feel "powerless "

"I came to New York to express myself," said Savido, 23, of Pittsburgh. "I would never have expected this censorship to happen to me.

STARS STRIPES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS E. KELSCH. Publisher THOMAS E. RELSCH, Publisher THOMAS BIERMANN, General Manager, Europe LT. COL. CYRIL J. SOCHA, Commande

News and Editorial

DAVID MAZZARELLA, Editorial Directo DAVID MAZZARELLA, Editoral Uriector
DOUG CLAWSON, Managing Editor
ROBB GRINDSTAFF, Associate Editor
SAM AMRHEIN, Europe Bureau Chief
SCOTT BUNGESS, Middle East Bureau Chief
JDE GRONELSN, Electronic Edition Editor
ASSISTATU AMAGINGE DITIORS:
Globan, News
Peter Photikoe, Photo-Graphics
SERVES, Edutorics, Marcas Code, Code
SAMERS, Editorics, Company

Brian Bowers, Features Sean Moores, Sports

Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480. APO AE 0921 INTERNATIONAL MAIL - Poetforb 1330 64345 Grischeim

FAX: DSN 349-8416: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601416

UNI. (+1) (202) 761-0945. E-mail-mazzarellad@stripes.osd.mil OMBUDSMAN: be llugaro. Send comments to: Ombudsman, and Stripes. 529 14th St. NW. Suite 350, Washington, 20045-1301. Phone civilian (+1) (401) 364-6032, (+1) (401) 364-6095. ments to Ombudemen Stan

or e-mail: ombudsman@stripes osd mil

How to call us

HOW tO CAII US Editor: DSN 349-8237: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601237 Latters: DSN 349-8400: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601400 Sports: DSN 349-8275: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601225 Circulation: DSN 349-8275: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601437 Advertising: DSN 349-8335/443; tising: DSN 349-85339946; . (+49) (0) 6155/601335/443.

News Bureaus

GERMANY (country code +49)

Bamberg: Rick Emert, 279th BSB, Unit 27535, Box 23541, APO AE 09139-7535; tel. DSN 469-7957 or civ. (0) 951/36896; fax DSN 469-8007 or civ (0) 951/300-8007

465-6089. or civ. (0) 521360-6007; umholder: Terry Boyd, 222nd BSB, APO AE 09034; tel. DSN 485-6089. or civ. (0) 6783-900776; e-mail:

boydt@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Darmstadt: Kevin Dougherty, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8406 or civ. (0) 6155-601406;

e-mail: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil; Ward Sanderson, Uni 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8326 or civ. (0 29400, 4PO AE 09211, tal. DSN 349-8205 or civ. (0) 5155-501372; — evals andersoav@main atterps acodm; and Jessica Bigs. User 29400, APO AE 09211; tal. DSN 349-8209 or co. (0) \$155-501924; — evals imagg@main stepsys acodm 51915 inheliberg; tal. DSN 370-7010 or civ. (0) \$221,600554; tancieros(m) \$622,72421; — evals anderson@mail.extipses.od.min. 4PO AE 09227-3717; tal. DSN 489-8359 or civ. (0) \$312,92240 or (0) \$315,71406; tac. civ. (0) \$231,72656.

\$31,50509 \$\text{Suttgart: Chaire Loop, CMR 423, Box 465, APO AE 69107-0465, bt USS 421-2088 or ox 0711-7202088, e-mail. conception and support support of the support of t

09619; tel. DSN 626-5157 or civ. (+39) (081) 568-5157; fa: DSN 626-5150 or civ. (+39) (081) 568-5150; e-mail: jontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil; chudyj@mail.estripes.osd.mil SPAIN

Rota: Scott Schonauer, PSC 819, Box 1, FPO AE 09645; tel. DSN 727-1099 or civ. (+34) (956) 82-1099; fax DSN 727-1034 or civ. (+34) (956) 82-1034 e-mail: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

e-mais sommans (spiral assanges sustains)

UNITED KINGDOM

RAF Mildenhall: On Inson, Building 465 ECSS-UK, RAF Mildenhall.
APO AE 09459; tel. DSN 238-4888 or civ. (+44) (0) 1638/54488; fax civ. (+44) (0) 1638/718013; e-mail: jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil WASHINGTON D.C.

Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 44th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; let. (+1) (202) 761-0859; e-mail: dicksong@stippes.codfl.
Lisa Burgess, tel. cv. (+1) (703) 692-1875; and Leo Shane, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; let cv. (+1) (702) 761-1831; let cv. (+1) (702) 761-0890; e-mail: burgess/@stippes.codml and shane@Strippes.codm?

Printed in Italy by Editrice Telestamps

Stars and Stripes (USPS 017252) is published daily (except Christma and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripe: central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301, 100 dicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. Postmaster: Send address change n Stars and Stripes, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211. © European and Pacific Stars and Stripes 2004

This newspaper is authorized for publication by the Department of De fense for members of the Military Services overseas. However, the con-tents of the STARS and STRIPES are unofficial, and are not to be consid-

tests of the STARS and STRIPES in sufficial, and are not to be considered as the efficial series of a credency by the US Comments, choice and to the Charles and a considered by the US Comments, choice and the Charles and as appropriated bands for debathood to remote an older charles and use appropriated bands for debathood to remote an older charles and use appropriated bands for debathood to remote an older the properties of the Charles and the Charles and

Praise for tough question

I watched the TV news in utter disbelief as Spc. Thomas Wilson of the Tennessee National Guard asked Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld why more military combat vehicles were not reinforced for battle conditions. How could this sol-dier ask the senior U.S. Defense official such a question? Had the soldier's chain of command and public affairs officials failed in their responsibilities to properly screen and eliminate such a potentially embarrassing question, or had the soldier discarded the approved question and decided to ask an unapproved one?

It is very obvious that this young man had not heard of what happened to Gen. Eric Shinseki, a former Army chief of staff who dared to tell Congress that the occupation of Iraq could require "several hundred thousand troops." The general, who lived the seven Army Values, was forced into retirement in June 2003, because he demonstrated integrity and personal courage rather than acting like one of those bobble-headed figures that nod its head up and down in the rear window of a car. (His actions were so counter to expected behavior that his retirement was not even attended by officials from our Department of Defense)

I applaud Spc. Wilson's courage to ask our leaders the hard question. Beside Strykers, Abrams tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles and uparmored Humvees, there are plenty of unarmored, thin-skinned vehicles, driven and occupied by our sons and daughters. Spc. Wilson will probably find that his small time in the press spotlight brings notoriety that he does not need as he prepares to deploy to Iraq in the service of our country. If he decides to stay in the National Guard until retirement, he should not expect anyone from the Department of Defense to attend his ceremony.

> Michael Shanahan Stuttgart Germany

LSA Anaconda must get tough

Logistics Supply Area Anaconda is being attacked more than any place in Iraq because of poor leadership. When insurgents lob mortars and rockets into "Mortarville," instead of sending counter-fire, we just turn on a siren. By sounding that siren, we let the insurgents know they hit their mark. We should just broadcast our grid coordinates over the loud speaker.

Of course the leadership will call this siren a "warning siren," even though it only sounds after the attack is already over. Don't really need a siren after the attack. Not only is the siren too late, it sends everyone scurrying to bunkers to hide like cowards. The siren closes the post office. the post exchange, the laundry and, best of

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must he signed and must include the writer's address or hase and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

Send your letters to:

U.S. Mail: International mail: Stars and Stripes Stars and Stripes Unit 29480 Postfach 1330 APO AE 09211 64345 Griesheim

Via fax: [Country code +49] (0) 6155/601395; DSN 349-8395

E-mail: letters@mail.estripes.osd.mil

all, the chow hall. Chow hall workers mill around inside not serving food, while hungry soldiers stack up in a huge line, waiting for the all clear siren to sound.

This is a ridiculous waste of time, and LSA Anaconda is the only place doing this nonsense. Wearing Kevlars and body armor inside the wire, hiding in bunkers, not shooting back at the enemy, all just smells of cowardice to me, and I don't like it. Fortunately, I'm leaving Iraq in about three weeks to deactivate. Hopefully, someone will step forward and stop this less-than-brave style of leadership and make a difference for the great folks I'm leaving behind.

> Spc. Richard S. Swellen Logistics Support Area

Anaconda, Iraa

Questions for bin Laden

One of the benefits of fugitive status is that one can make public statements without having to field questions. Nevertheless, one of Osama bin Laden's minions might chance upon these words and forward them, and I have several questions which simply must be addressed by Mr. bin Laden.

Shortly after the September attacks, bin Laden was asked if he had anything to do with them. He replied, "No." Since then, he has made a great effort to make people believe that he is, at the very least, the titular head of al-Qaida. Then, in his election-eve video, he says he will tell us the "truth." Until he can reconcile the difference between his previous statement and his current assertions, his credentials as a truth-sayer are exceptionally poor. Can he respond to this?

In his most recent video speech, bin Laden says that he never considered attacking the World Trade Center until he saw the burning buildings in Beirut, Does the leader of al-Qaida mean that the trail

of murder victims from the Middle East. though East Africa to the United States is just about buildings? This is incomprehensible. Explain please.

Again, in his video release, bin Laden insists that the president of the United States had deceived everyone about the war on terror, and that he continues to do so. Practically in the same breath, he instructs us to ask the president why al-Qaida does not attack Sweden Incredible! Bin Laden is the one who insists that he is the source of all truth, and he wants us to ask a man who, according to him, will not answer truthfully? Why doesn't bin Laden give us the answer? Does he know the answer? Is the answer supposed to be a secret? To what end?

Finally, the American media - both print and electronic — is awash in bloated egos famous only for being famous rather than being famous for accomplishing anything of merit. Would bin Laden please explain why we should believe that he is not among such shallow beings?

Mark L. Williams

Giessen American High School, Germany

Bronze Stars not deserved

I am confused about what it really means when a soldier gets the Bronze Star. My father was awarded the Bronze Star during Vietnam, when he saved a buddy who had stepped on a land mine. He was wounded in the process, and was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

Recently my unit had an awards ceremo ny. Seven to 10 Bronze Stars were handed out. More than half of the recipients don't even leave the wire or see combat. Another soldier and I were put in for Bronze Stars, too. My buddy had rescued and aided a KBR driver who had been seriously wounded by a roadside bomb. And I aided a fellow soldiers who was shot in the arm when our convoy was ambushed. I ran 20 yards while being fired upon to as sist him, get him aid and take up his fighting position.

Our chain of command put us up for the award. After seeing the ceremony, we asked our commanding officer and executive officer what had happened to our Bronze Stars. We were the ones out there showing heroism and bravery, going beyond our everyday tasks. The individuals that got the awards have all just been doing their normal jobs. We were told that ours was denied, or let me say "lowered to Army Commendation Medal" — which 60 to 70 other soldiers in our unit will also be getting. The people at this ceremony should have gotten ARCOMs, not Bronze

I guess the Bronze Star doesn't stand for the same thing it did when my dad got his. Spc. Jonathan Fithian Logistics Support Area Anaconda-Balad, Iraq

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury









STARS AND STRIPES WEB SITE: WWW.STRIPES.COM

OPINION

When holiday cheer meets harsh reality

BY KEVIN COWHERD The (Raltimore) Sur

t's nice to see we're still being bombarded with the usual mixed messages this holiday season.

Where's your holiday spirit? everyone asks. Enjoy the season for once! Don't let the stress get to you! Then you turn on the 6 o'clock news and they're talking about dry Christmas trees torching the house and outdoor lights on overburdened extension cords electrocuting the family pet and hot new toys the kids could choke on

Reach out to loved ones this holiday season! everyone says

Then you pick up a newspaper and it's filled with headlines like: "How to sit down to dinner with people you can't stand" and "Surviving the holidays with your dysfunctional in-laws" and "Sure, your mother's a monster! But make the best of it this Christ-

In the stores, crammed with stressed-out shoppers plunging into five-figure credit-card debt, the piped-in music assures: It's the most wonderful time of the year! But the morning talk shows are all about how to cope with depression, or seasonal affective disorder, or social anxiety triggered by the coming round of holiday partying, or a drinking problem.

'Good food with good friends - that's what the season's all about!" screams the cover of every glossy entertaining magazine you pick up. But now, according to news reports, undercooked turkeys and salmonella poisoning are wiping out entire families, cholesterol levels are higher than the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and we've turned into a nation of big, fat pigs On one of the cable news networks the

other day, the anchor began a "To Your Health" segment with this: "Most people gain around seven pounds during the holiday season — did you know that?

Did we know that?! How could we not know that? We've been hearing about how fat we're getting for 20 years now.

When the nutritionists are finished with all their gloom-and-doom pronouncements, the fitness experts finish the job of bringing us down. Look, they say, celebrate all you want. But find a way to burn those calories, or you'll blow up like a blimp and eventually keel over and all the family and friends you left behind will hate you forever

Go for a walk, they say. Hit the gym. But who can hit the gym when there's a two-inch layer of ice on the car windshield and the Weather Channel's calling for sleet and the Old Farmer's Almanac is calling for an end-of-the-world snowstorm? If I die in a snowstorm, I want to die in my own house, not in a spinning class surrounded by 16 sweaty people in red unitards.

Here's another message you can't escape this time of year: Remember all the wonderful people you work with. Great

Then you show up at work one morning and the overly chipper woman who sits in the next cubicle chirps: "Let's do an office Secret Santa this year! Oh, c'mon, it'll be

No, it won't

Let's face it: Is there anything that induces more stress during the holidays than Se-cret Santa? Pull a name out of a hat and buy a present for someone you barely know Who thought this was a terrific concept? Spend too little, and you look like a cheapskate. Spend too much, and it looks like you're showing off.



Even if you get the monetary amount right, you might end up giving a gift that of-fends a colleague. For instance, perhaps you remember that the person you're giving a gift to is a big dog lover. So you go out and buy a nice, I don't know, dog collar with little ingle bells or something. On the big day in which all the Secret Santas are revealed, that person opens your gift and stares uncomprehendingly at it for several seconds.

Then she blurts: "My Rexie died last week," and flees the room in tears.

Well, thank you very much. You just made the work environment a lot more pleasant.

Oh, well. At least there can be no arguing with the most venerable of all seasonal mesages: Christmas is all about the kids. This is why you show up an hour early at

your child's school for her holiday recital. . So you stake out your position 10 feet from the stage — elbows wide, feet planted, shoul-ders thrust back like an NBA center boxing out the other team's big man. You wave at your child and smile and hold

the camcorder steady for 90 minutes as you feel the first twinges of carnal tunnel syndrome in your wrists. Unless that's the holiday spirit you're feeling. Sometimes it's hard to tell one from the other

No kidding: Blue States wait, Red States procreate

States control the politics, the popular culture sure seems Blue. And not a cool blue. Instead, it's a hot and sexy blue - call it Viagra blue. And yet for all the sex that ev-

James Pinkerton

ervone seems to be enjoying, not many children are being born.

Let's start with some recent movies. The sequel to "Bridget Jones's Diary" begins with the title character exulting that she has been with her current boyfriend for "six four days,

seven hours and 71 ec-static shags." And speaking of the quantification of carnality: "Kinsey," the story of the famous erotic researcher, declares, as its

tagline, "Let's talk about sex In addition, two films starring Jude Law,

"Alfie" and "Closer," feature single, childless yuppies in a roundelay of sexual cou-And for readers, the new sex-seller is

Tom Wolfe's "I Am Charlotte Simmons," the ultimate dirty-old-man book

OK, those are movies and books, and most adults don't go to movies or read books. But they all watch TV, where the new queens of the home entertainment system are "Desperate Housewives," and the most important males on that show are boy-toys. And yet older fellas are not forgotten on the tube; one might get the impression, from watching commercials, that the U.S. economy is sustained by sales of Viagra, as well as Levitra and Cialis

Interestingly, when these approdisiacs

erence is made to anything so old-fashioned as a husband or wife. Instead, the spots are completely neutral, legally and sexually, as they urge "partners" to get it on. And soon, no doubt, there will be a patch for women who wish to patch up their sex lives

It's a free country, of course. Indeed, in terms of sex, it's getting freer. But can that sexual freedom last if the exponents of lifestyle liberation don't reproduce themselves The nation's birthrate has decreased by half since the peak of the baby boom. The big ethnic families that once had six kids might now have three. But in places where the Sex Boom is still peaking, "families," such as they are, are typically childless. And in terms of future politics, three outvotes zero

In past societies, rampant sexuality led to sterility, as a result of venereal disease. In herpes and AIDS, and yet for millions, fertility has not survived promiscuous sexuality Many of the most educated and affluent are, in effect, voluntarily sterile. Their bodies might have remained virus-free, but their values have changed permanently. The idea that some would channel their

sexual energy into pursuits other than procreation has frequently been associated with homosexuality. That is, gays and lesbians presumably have more energy, as it were, to throw into art, literature, or education. From royal salons to avant-garde garrets to abbevs and rectories, those with no reproductive outlet sublimated their passions into painting, writing or teaching.

But now, in a sense, everyone — straight as well as gay - is an artist. A performance artist that is with his or her own sevuality

As any reader of Cosmopolitan magazine quickly learns, some women are avidly "keeping score," just like Bridget. And since none want the game to end just because of age, the market for sex aids, from pills to plastic surgery, will never end Except that it might end, as the children

of the children-oriented fill up the vacuum left by the childless. To be sure, some kids born into even the reddest states turn out to be "blue" spontaneously, becoming Mid-night Cowboys. But if demographic destiny keeps grinding on, blue-state bohemias are destined to shrink. And so the red states will grow larger, culturally as well as politically.

So the randy, Bridget-y culture of the early 21st century will perhaps yield to a new way of life — in which a greater emphasis on fertility, as opposed to just sexuality, becomes the new primal value.

mes Pinkerton is a Newsday columnist.

Mallard Fillmore

By BRUCE TINSLEY I'VE NEVER STOPPED BELIEVING IN YOU!... OF COURSE, I ALSO STILL BELIEVE IN THE U.N. TNESEY 12-14

Israel to leave Palestinian towns for vote

Defense minister says troops plan 72-hour retreat for Jan. 9 election

BY GAVIN RABINOWITZ
The Associated Press

HERZLIVA, Israel — Israel will withdraw its troops from Palestinian towns for 72 hours during next month's Palestinian presidential election, Israel's defense minister said Monday, signaling that a deadly weekend attack on an Israel army post is not derailing fledgling peace efforts.

The defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, also said it is in Israel's interest to coordinate next year's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip with the Palestinians — a marked departure from Israel's initial insistence to act unilaterally.

The Islamic militant group Hamas and gunmen with ties to the ruling Fatah movement claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack on an army outpost on the Gaza-Egypt border. The militants detonated 1.5 tons of ex-

plosives, killing five soldiers and wounding five in what they dubbed "Operation Angry Volcano." Hamas said it had dug an 800-meter-long tunnel over four months to reach the outpost.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday that the new Palestinian leadership is not doing enough to restrain mili-

"By now, we don't see any change," Sharon said of Palestinian efforts. The comments marked the first time since Yasser Arafat's death last month that Sharon criticized Arafat's moderate successor, Mahmoud Abbas, though he did not mention Abbas by name.

Later Monday, Israel's military chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, said that militants are trying to undermine the new Palestinian leadership, but hinted that Israel's patience is growing thin.

"We have no choice but to act



The father of Israeli army Sgt. Tarek Al-Zidaina, center, weeps Monday during his son's funeral in Rahat, Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Artel Sharon said Monday that the new Palestinian leadership is not doing enough to restrain militants, such as the ones who killed Al-Zidaina and four other Israeli soldiers in an explosion Sunday.

ourselves," Yaalon said at a briefing in the Gaza Strip. "That is what we are doing and that is what we will do unless someone on the other side takes responsibility and starts to deal themselves with the terror groups." Israel's initial response to the outpost attack was relatively muted. Helicopters fired five missiles at what the military said were weapons workshops in Gaza City, causing no injuries.

The outpost attack was seen as a challenge to Abbas, who has been trying to persuade militants to halt attacks on Israelis ahead of presidential elections Jan. 9. Abbas has criticized the armed Palestinian uprising and enjoys the support of the international community.

Mofaz told an academic conference in the Tel Aviv suburb of Herzliya on Monday that Israeli troops would withdraw from Palestinian towns a day before the vote, and stay out for 72 hours.

Israel has said it would do its utmost to facilitate the vote, but the defense minister's comments were the most detailed yet on troop redeployment.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said Israeli troops should leave immediately to allow candidates to campaign. He also said Israel should lift travel bans it imposed on Palestinians after the September 2000 outbreak of fighting.

Ukraine reopens inquiry on poisoning

The Associated Pres

KIEV, Ukraine — Lawmakers in Ukraine's parliament reopened their investigation Monday into opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko's illness after doctors in Austria determined he had suffered dioxin poisoning.

The parliamentary commission

decision followed a similar move by the country's prosecutor gener-

day. The

myr Sivk-

commission

will be led by Volody-

ovych, a law-

maker who

has support-

Minister Vik-



Yushchenko oyek, Yushoyek, Yushchenko's opponent in the
Dec. 26 rerun for the presidency,
"The results of the most recent
expertise in Vienna are giving us
grounds to renew our work, "Sivkovych said. "However, we are not
convinced that deliberate poison-

An earlier commission led by Sivkovych investigated the case in October and decided that Yushchenko had suffered a combination of a viral infection and several other diseases.

ing can be proved."

Sivkovych urged Yushchenko to immediately hand over results of the tests conducted by doctors in Austria to prosecutors and the parliamentary committee.



Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, right, stands for photographers Monday at the start of his appearance before a commission investigating the March 11 train bombings in Madrid, Spain.

Premier denies party sought to gain from Madrid bombings

BY DANIEL WOOLLS The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Spain's prime minister, heckled Monday by opposition lawmakers, angrily denied his Socialist party instigated anti-government rallies on the eve of a general election to reap political benefit from the Madrid train bombings.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero also accused former Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of misleading Spaniards by blaming Basque militants for the bombings, even after evidence of an Islamic link emerged and accumulated.

Thousands of demonstrators — spreading the word by cell phone text message — convened protest rallies outside then-ruling Popular Party offices in Madrid and other cities on March 13, two days after the bombings that killed 191 people. They accused Aznar's pror-U.S, government of making Spain cused Aznar's pror-U.S, government of making Spain — and the next day, the opposition Socialists won the election.

Under Spanish law, political rallies are banned the day before an election. "We did not know about, plan, participate in, insti-

"We did not know about, plan, participate in, instigate or support the demonstrations on March 13," Zapatero said at a raucous session of a parliamentary commission probing the bombings.

Zapatero is the first sitting Spanish prime minister to testify before a parliamentary commission of inquiry, where he again condemned the war in Iraq, and said his predecessor had increased the risk of an Islamic terror attack here by supporting it.

The 16-member panel investigating the bombings began its work in July and has heard from more than 50 former police and government officials on how the government handled the attacks and what warnings it had that Spain might be a target for Muslim militants.

The commission is scheduled to conclude with testimony later this week from a representative of an association of March 11 victims, then write a final report.

Chile's Pinochet indicted

The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Gen. Augusto Pinochet was indicted Monday for the kidnapping of nine dissidents and the killing of one of them during his 1973-90 regime, and the former dictator was placed under house arrest.

Judge Juan Guzman made the announcement nearly three months after questioning the 89-year-old former ruler and having him examined by doctors to determine whether he can stand trial.

Guzman said he made the decision to try Pinochet after carefully reviewing an interview Pinochet gave to a Spanish language television station in Miami.

He said he is convinced Pinochet is healthy enough to stand trial.

The trial of Pinochet is part of Guzman's investigation of the so-called "Operation Condor," a joint plan by the dictatorships that ruled several South American nations in the 1970s and '80s to suppers dissi-

Pinochet's lawyers are expected to appeal Guzman's decision to the Supreme Court.

It's the second time Pinochet faces trial for the abuse se during his long reign. In 2001, the Supreme Court ruled he was physically and mentally unfit to stand trial — a condition Pinochet's lawyers argue not only still exists but has worsened.

EU nears 'yes,' details on Turkey membership talks

BY ROBERT WIELAARD The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium - The European Union edged closer Monday to giving Turkey the green light on membership talks but jitters over bringing the relatively poor Muslim nation into the fold prevented decision on a starting date.

The final decision is up to EU leaders meeting in Brussels on Thursday and Friday, after the EU foreign ministers failed Monday to set a start date and duration for er, whose country is skeptical of Turkey ioining the bloc, said "negotiations will be long, open-ended and difficult" stressed that membership was not yet a done deal

Officials were drafting a summit declaration Monday to open the doors to Turkey.

The draft text, obtained by The Associated Press, hails Turkey for having made "decisive progress" in economic and political reforms. Leaders also express confidence in Turkey's sustained reforms, "and vow to monitor Ankara's commitment to "fundahuman rights, (especially) the zero-tolerance policy relating to torture and ill-treatment" of prisoners.

Of particular concern to the EU is that the Turkish parliament approve laws on criminal procedures and the judicial police.

Four other laws, including one enacting a new nenal code, have been adopted by the legislature, but must yet take legal effect.

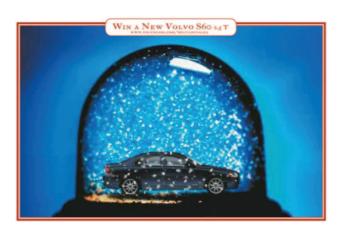
The EU foreign ministers debated possi ble dates for talks to start, and conditions to attach to them to assuage fears in Western Europe of bringing Turkey into the bloc.

Opposition to Turkey's joining has come from Austria, Slovakia, Denmark and France

France wants the talks to begin in late 2005 or 2006

If Turkey joins, its companies will face stiff and unrestricted competition from EU rivals. Turkey has a weak economy with a per capita income of about average.

Turkey is also at odds with other EU nations over Cyprus, divided into a Greek Cypriot south and a Turkish-controlled north since Turkey invaded in 1974.



THE USO 2004 CHRISTMAS DRAWING

EVER IMAGINED YOURSELF BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A SPIRITED EUROPEAN SPORTS SEDAN? TO MAKE YOUR DREAM COME TRUE, ENTER THIS YEAR'S VERY SPECIAL USO CHRISTMAS DRAWING. VISIT YOUR LOCAL COMMISSARY, COMPLETE A SIMPLE ENTRY FORM AND YOU MAY SOON BE ENJOYING ONE OF THE WORLD'S SAFEST AND MOST EXCITING CARS - A VOLVO S60 2,5T IN EXCLUSIVE "MAGIC" BLUE METALLIC. In addition you can be one of the lucky winners receiving a \$50 holiday gift certificate at EACH PARTICIPATING COMMISSARY, ALL COURTESY OF VOLVO CARS MILITARY SALES - AND ALL TO MAKE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON THE SPECIAL EXPERIENCE YOU DESERVE.

Entry: Nov 11 - Dec 22, 2004. Final Draw: Dec 23, 2004. Events at:

15 DECEMBER: HANAU COMMISSARY GERMANY, SIGONELLA COMMISSARY ITALY 17 DECEMBER: GIESSEN COMMISSARY GERMANY, MILDENHALL COMMISSARY GERMANY 18 DECEMBER: RAMSTEIN COMMISSARY GERMANY

Many warm thanks to our participating sponsors



















Romania's election

BUCHAREST, Romania - Reformist opposition candidate Traian Basescu won Romania's presidential runoff election Monday = a blow to the successors of the once-powerful communists who ruled for most of the period since the 1989 revolution.

His opponent, Prime Minister Adrian Nastase, conceded defeat after results showed Basescu had won 51.23 percent of Sunday's vote, compared with Nastase's 48.77 percent. The results were based on 98.76 percent of the ballots counted.

In a victory speech, Basescu pledged to prepare Romania to join the European Union by 2007. He said he would strengthen ties with the United States and Britain to guarantee Romania's security, while also seeking good relations with Russia and other former Soviet states.

IRA disarmament

DUBLIN, Ireland - Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams on Monday insisted the IRA would not allow photographs of its disarmament as the British and Irish governments tried to clear the way for a new Northern Ireland peace pack-

"The photographs are dead and gone and buried," said Adams, emerging from Prime Minister Tony Blair's office in London. do not think there is any possibility of resurrecting that issue."

The Irish Republican Army said last week it was willing to scrap its remaining weapons stockpiles, but only if Britain, Ireland and the north's Protestant leaders dropped demands for the process to be photographed.

Elephants enjoy tapioca

BANGKOK, Thailand - Wild elephants in Thailand stumbled upon a feast when they found a tapioca delivery truck with a flat tire, officials said Monday.

The driver, Somkuan Sirisat, said he had gone for help to re-pair the tire Sunday night - and when he returned, he found five or six elephants surrounding his truck and devouring its contents.

The elephants found their windfall in the Ta Takiab district of Chachoengsao province, 56 miles east of Bangkok.

The elephants left the scene after eating their fill.

From The Associated Press

PAGE 16 · Stars and Strip

Missing bells found

WA SEATTLE—A hand-bell hobbyist in Texas helped crack the case of the stolen church chimes, leading police to a trio of young men suspected of pawning about \$20,000 worth of the gleaming bronze instruments.

Six of eight cases of Schulmerich handbells and Malmark hand chimes stolen from

Alderwood Community Church in Lynnwood, Wash., were sold by local pawnshops through eBay to buyers as far away as Pennsylvania for a combined \$4,129.

A 21-year-old Everett, Wash., man - a former church member - was arrested, and police expect to arrest other suspects The church didn't discover its

collection of nearly 100 bells and chimes was missing until Labor Day weekend because its hell choir took a summer histus

Reporter claims assault

NC BURLINGTON — A developer was charged with threatening and assaulting a news-paper reporter who wrote a story about a proposed private club in Burlington.

James Moffat, a reporter for the Times-News of Burlington, said Ernie Koury Jr., 50, confronted him before a meeting of the Burlington City Council. Koury allegedly grabbed Moffat by the throat and shirt collar, shook him and threatened to kill him if he wrote another article about the club like one Moffat had written earlier.

The story, written in November, quoted a planning and zoning commissioner who questioned kind of business the club would be. Koury's attorney assured the commissioner that "nothing illegal" would take place.

Koury was charged with communicating threats and simple assault. The newspaper asked Moffat to file the charges

High-tech licenses

MN ST. PAUL— Minnesota has begun issuing a has begun issuing a first-of-its-kind driver's license designed to thwart counterfeiters an issue that has taken on greater urgency since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The licenses have a security feature in which a reflective image appears to float above and below the card when the license is tilted. The licenses will have a distinctively Minnesota flavor: The floating images will be of loons, an enduring symbol of the state

Minnesota is the first state to use the technology, developed by Ma-plewood-based 3M Co. The technology has been around about a year and has only been used on Australian passports.

Surprise landing

FABENS — A small plane that had lost power briefly landed atop an 18-wheeler before crashing onto the highway, authorities said. The two people aboard the plane came out unscathed, and the truck driver never heard a

"Nothing happened to the truck, except for a couple of skid marks up top," said Trooper Lucila Torres, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Public Safe-

ty.
The single-engine plane carry-



ROUNDUP

ing an El Paso couple fell off the trailer and landed upside down on Interstate 10 during the emergency landing 19 miles east of El Paso, Torres said

FAA investigators were reviewing the incident.

Driving teacher fired NH CONCORD — An uncertified high school driving instructor previously convicted of drunken driving was arrested after his vehicle ran off the mad as he was headed to teach a driving class, officials said.

Arthur Desmeules, 66, faces several charges stemming from the Nov. 22 incident, including drunken driving. The Nashua School District fired him last week

He had taught driving to students in the district for 35 years

Not a hate crime

FL CLEARWATER — A white man accused of draping a noose around the shoulders of a black teenager was convicted of misdemeanor battery. The jury declined to return a felony verdict that would have labeled the offense a hate crime.

Circuit Judge Tim Peters, how ever, surprised the courtroom by sending Louis J. Giannola IV, 20, to jail pending his Jan. 10 sentencing. He had been free on bond, and a misdemeanor usually carries



Look out below

Mike Bishop rappels from the top of the McLennan County Court House in Waco, Texas, while changing some of the 1,200 bulbs that line the exterior.

only probation for a defendant with no

prior record.
Giannola was accused of draping a noose around the neck of Dionte Hall, 15, in January at a Wendy's restaurant in Largo, west of Tampa He claimed he did so because another youngster. whose father is black, bet him \$10 he wouldn't do it

High salaries

OAKLAND than 800 people who work for the financially strapped city of Oakland made at least \$100.000 in the last fiscal year, according to

records released following a court order obtained by a newspaper. The total represents about 18 percent of the city's work force of about 4,500 from July 2003 through July 2004. About three-quarters of the employees were in the police and fire depart-

ments. Oakland is facing a projected def-icit of more than \$45 million over the next two years that threatens basic city services. The deficit is partly due to pay raises and improved benefits approved during the economic boom of the 1990s.

About two-thirds of the top earners had salaries set under \$100,000, but earned more due to extras, such as overtime. One police officer made \$177,311 during the period, although his base salary was \$73,188, according to the

Prescription savings

ME PORTLAND — A program that encourages city employees to order prescription drugs from Canada is saving the city and its workers tens of thousand of dollars, city officials said. Savings through the Portland Meds program are on track to top \$100,000 during the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. The program was launched last July

Deer-vehicle crashes up

FORT WAYNE - More than 14,000 deer-vehicle crashes were reported in the state last year, and the frequency of the crashes is increasing, says the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Deer researcher Lance McNew says there were 20 percent more crashes last year than in

Crowded cemeteries

VT QUECHEE — When Lawrence Hudson Jr. dies, he expects to be buried in the plot his great-grandmother bought 80 years ago, near where his father, Lawrence Hudson Sr., was buried in June

It helps that Hudson is following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps around the Hilltop Cemetery, caring for the same plots tended by the two previous Hudsons who served as sexton.

There's space for him in the family plot, Hudson said.

Others might not be as fortunate. Quechee's is among a number of cemeteries in Vermont and New Hampshire that have run out of

room to grow.

The cost of adding land to existing cemeteries has risen greatly, just as year-round population growth and the desire of some vacation home owners to be buried in the hills have increased demand.



Balloons that glow

Balloonists from the Southwes Smith Park.



Nick Harberts of Worthington Something is missing ... wins a heat race with his 2005 Arctic Cat Firecat during Winterfest in Luverne, Minn. From snowmobiling on alfalfa to strapping on cross-country skis with wheels, Minnesotans are finding ways of coping with a frustrating lack of snow.



Santa is lifted onto an old B-47 at the Ride 'em Santa former Plattsburgh (N.Y.) Air Force Base by workers from the Plattsburgh Airbase Redevelopment Corp. Santa has ridden the homber for 30 years.



tern Ohio Competition Club light the night sky during the annual Christmas Balloon Glow in Middletown, Ohio's



Got something on your nose something on your nose while feeding in a field near West Yellowstone, Mont.



Swoosh!

Kane Lasky, of Boise, Idaho, skis down to the base of Bogus Basin Ski Resort's Deer Point lift on the first day of skiing at the resort outside of Boise.



Let there be light

Rabbi Yacov Borenstein, left, and local businessman Stephen Aronson light a torch on the menorah at the intersection of Main and Market streets in Pouchkeepsie. N.Y., on the start of Hanukkah.

Man convicted of murder

NE GERING — A man who abducted, assaulted and killed a 15-year-old newspaper carrier in western Nebraska was convicted of first-degree murder.

Jeffrey Hessler, 26, was found guilty in the February 2003 death of Heather Guerrero, who was kidnapped blocks from her home. Her body was found the next day by two family members at an abandoned house about 12 miles away.

The prosecutor, Doug Warner, said a neighbor's report of hearing a scream and seconds later a speeding car were proof Guerrero was "surprised, overpowered and taken against her will."

Defense lawyer Jim Mowbray

Detense lawyer Jim Mowbray said Hessler "didn't mean for it to happen" and had not planned to kill Guerrero. Mowbray maintained that Hessler should have been charged with second-degree murder.

Steer escapes death

CALEDONIA — After four days on the lam, a wayward steer that had been spotted on front yards and near a golf course found its way back to its own barn and avoided a possible death penal-

Police had standing orders to shoot the 700-pound animal because of the danger it could pose if it strayed into traffic on nearby state Highway 38.

Kelly Welter and her children joined the search with her 17-year-old nephew, who owns the animal and plans to show it at the Racine County Fair next year, after the steer broke through an electric fence and a stock gate.

Suspicious fires continue

WASHINGTON — A serial arsonist who authorities believe started more than 40 fires struck again, investigators said.

The latest fire, which broke out at 5 a.m. on the exterior of a house in Northeast Washington, is the 46th case in the region to come under the jurisdiction of the Arson Task Force.

"Investigators are pretty confident that this is part of our serial arsons," said Kelly Long, task force spokeswoman and agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Long said investigators believe the latest fire is linked to the others based on general characteristics.

Decorations troubling

AZ SCOTTSDALE — The boo birds said Chris Birkett's Halloween display was too scary, and now he's in trouble with the law.

Birkett, who stages elaborate holiday displays at his home, was charged with disorderly conduct following an Oct. 30 police report over his Hallowen display, police said. Birkett's neighbor told police she has small children who were frightered and couldn't sleep befrightered and couldn't sleep be-

Officers attested that they could hear the noise from the neighbor's home and submitted their report to prosecutors, police spokesman Sam Bailey said.

cause of the ghostly sounds.

Another neighbor called police recently about Birkett's winter display. That neighbor complained about the noise from crews working to put up the display and traffic

and debris left by sightseers.

Police said Birkett faces a \$2,500 fine and six months in jail if convicted of disorderly conduct

Landlord convicted

NY NEW YORK — A landlord was found guilty of hiring hit men to force two brothers out of a rent-controlled apartment last year.

Juan Basagoitia, 50, was accused of paying two tenants in the building \$2,500 to beat the brothers and attack them with a kmife in March. He allegedly wanted to oust the victims from their three-bedroom, \$400-amonth apartment in the Elmhurst section of New York's Queens borough be be could raise the rent to \$1,500.

The brothers, William and David Lavery, suffered disfiguring injuries in the attack but survived.

Basagoitia could face up to life in prison when sentenced in January. His lawyer, Stewart Orden, said his client hired the attackers to scare the brothers, not to hurt them, and that the plan spiraled out of control.

Hospital wristband safety

TAMPA — A hospital chain is taping over patients' LiveStrong wristbands because they are yellow — the same color as the "do not resuscitate" bands it puts on patients who do not want to be saved if their heart stops.

No mix-ups have been reported, but BayCare Health Systems officials do not want to take any chanc-

The popular LiveStrong rubber bracelets are sold through the Lance Armstrong Foundation as part of the champion bicycle racer's efforts to raise money for cancer research

Gun applications down

MO KANSAS CITY — Not as many Missourians as expected have applied to carry a concealed gun. Officials had expected as many as 60,000 applications in the first year, but county sheriffs have requested only 13,748 background checks through November. The permits became available in March

Graffiti gets political

CA SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, who has thumbed his nose at the establishment before, let a graffiti artist spray paint his City Hall office walls with the bright orange message: "SMASH THE STATE."

There is irony. There is art appreciation. There are raised eyebrows.

Gonzalez, who has hosted monthly art installations in his office by unknown and known artists for the last four years, offered up this graffiti for one of his last exhibits before he exits City Hall on Jan. 8. Gonzalez did not seek re-election. The timing and placement of the

artwork are interesting, seeing how City Hall is a registered historical landmark, and you need approval just to hang a bulletin board — and seeing how Mayor Gavin Newsom, Gonzalez's rival in the mayor's race last year, has been issuing strict edicts about the city's and public's responsibility to clean up graffiti vandalism.

Stories and photos from wire services



eamed Curt Smith and Roland Orzabal of Tears For Fears perform in New York's Rockefeller Center on Sept. 25, as part of NBC's "Today" show. The band is best known for its 1980s hits "Shout" and "Everybody Wants to Rule the World."

Shouting match

Years after bitter split, Tears for Fears duo find a "Happy Ending" together

44 We just realized

[not talking] was

just silly.

By Ross Rathala Knight Ridder Newspapers

urt Smith knew he was ready to leave Tears for Fears back in 1989, as the duo was finishing its third album, "The Seeds of Love

"I made the decision before I started the tour," Smith said during a phone interview from his home in Los Angeles. "I left at the end of it. It was no fun anymore: it had become a tedious experi-

ence Fifteen years later, Smith has reunited with Fifteen Tears for Fears co-founder Roland Orzabal for a new record - appropriately titled "Everybody Loves a Happy Ending" and tour.

And for Smith, Tears for Fears is fun again. "Oh, phew, it's night and day, really," said. "Making this record was an enjoyable process from start to finish, which is unheard of for us

When Smith and Orzabal formed the group in the early '80s, they were drawn together by a mutual admiration for Arthur Janov's primal scream therapy. Their gloomy first album, 1983's "The Hurting," was a hit in their native England, despite the depressive nature of the lyrics reflected in song titles such as "Watch Me Bleed," "Suffer the Chil-dren" and "Mad World." But by 1985's "Songs From the Big Chair,"

Smith and Orzabal had lightened up, sort of, and found a worldwide audience on the strength of the now-classic singles "Shout" and "Everybody Wants to Rule the World." The newfound fame and fortune turned the

sessions for "The Seeds of Love" into a grueling marathon that lasted more than two years.
"I thought the production was great," said

Barry Pepper as NASCAR

Smith. "And there are a couple standout tracks. But there's also a lot of filler material and self-indulgent nonsense

After Smith departed the group, Orzabal kept recording under the Tears for Fears mon-iker throughout the '90s, to diminishing commercial returns. The duo's only communication was through lawyers.

But in 1999, the pair made up over dinner. "It wasn't because we were thinking of mak-

ing a record; we just realized [not talking] was just silly," Smith said. "We had such a long history to-

gether, we started out just working on our friendship. Over the next few years,

the pair continued to talk, and eventually the conversation turned to music. They had already started recording together when a cover

version of the duo's "Mad World," performed by singer/songwriter Gary Jules, became a surprise hit in 2003 after featuring prominently in the cult film "Donnie Darko

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the duo's come-back album picks up, sonically, where "The Seeds of Love" left off. It's a grand, sweeping record full of Beatles-esque turns and jazzy

flourishes. "There are definitely some ties between them." Smith said, "I think this is what 'The Seeds of Love' should have been. I think it's ac-

tually better." As for the future, is Tears for Fears' new album title, "Everybody Loves a Happy End-

ing," an epitaph? Smith said the pair have tour plans through the summer and have continued to write new music.

"You know, we have a good working rela-tionship now," Smith said. "But whenever we've made plans in the

past, we've never stuck to them. Who knows what will happen, but we're enjoying it now.

Wyclef Jean launches Haiti effort

Wyclef Jean has launched a nonpolitical humanitarian effort to help rebuild his native Haiti. Vele Haiti seeks to use music and community develorment as an outreach to the Caribbean country's youth. The

organization plans to help rebuild schools in slum areas and hold a free concert in Haiti in the spring. Jean launched Yele Haiti with a concert Thursday night. Among those on the arrivals line were Susan Saran-

don, a member of a task force that is assisting the former Fugees rapper, and her partner, Tim Robbins "The objective of Yele Haiti is to restore pride and a rea-

son to hope, and for the whole country to regain the deep spirit and strength that is part of our heritage," Jean says on the Yele Haiti Web site Jean's 1997 solo hit, "We Trying to Stay Alive," re-

worked the Bee Gees disco classic into an anthem of Hai-

Pepper: Earnhardt role had to be true

While portraying baseball great Roger Maris, actor Barry Pepper learned the importance of capturing the character. Anything short of authentic doesn't sit very well with fans.

So when it came to portraying Dale Earnhardt, perhaps the most revered man in NASCAR history. Pepper knew

he had his work cut out for him "[Earnhardt] is an American legend, and that is always

thin ice," Pepper said. "And the similarities between Earnhardt and Maris ... they had

extraordinary fan bases. You knew you were dealing with a very fervent opinion of who the man was, so if you strayed too far from that or didn't do your homework, you were going to hear about it."

Pepper, nominated for an Emmy for his portrayal of Maris in the TV movie "61," plays Earnhardt from ages 16 to 49 in the ESPN biopic "3," directed by Russell Mulcahy

When he arrived in North Carolina, where filming took place in the Charlotte area and Earnhardt's hometown of Kannapolis, fans made it clear they wanted

Pepper to get it right. The movie doesn't show the 2001 crash that killed Earnhardt on the final lap of the Daytona 500 - Pepper said it

would have been inappropriate. And the film was made

without the cooperation of Earnhardt's widow. Teresa who had early discussions with the network but didn't

Poker players go for beauty

Pamela Anderson wins with a full house.

In an online survey conducted by EmpirePoker.com, 42 percent of the Web site's VIPs selected model-actress Anderson as the ce-

lebrity they would most like to play against "Our players clearly think Pamela Anderson isn't too bright or maybe

they just want to ogle her," said Ron Burke. EmpirePoker.com's market-

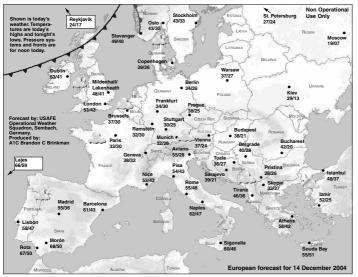
Dennis Rodman was a distant second with 24 percent, James Woods shuffled 13 percent, Dave Navarro was picked by 10 percent, skateboard-

Hank Azaria, Michael Ian Black, Ron Artest, Clay Aiken and Teri Hatcher also picked up votes.

When asked which celebrity would be most likely to cheat at poker, 37 percent of those surveyed chose Affleck. Stories and photos from wire services



er Tony Hawk and Matt Damon each drew 3 percent, Donald Trump was selected by 2 percent and 1 percent said Ben Affleck



2

48/36

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with fog. Highs in the mid 30s, Wednesday lows in the low 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 40s to upper 50s, Wednesday lows in the lower 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with fog. Highs in the mid to upper 30s, Wednesday lows in the lower to upper 20s.

France: Mostly cloudy with fog. Highs in the mid 40s to low 60s, Wednesday lows in the mid 30s to

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with fog. Highs in the mid 30s,

Wednesday lows in the upper 20s. Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy fog. Highs in the low 30s to mid 30s, Wednesday lows in the mid 20s to

low 30s Hungary: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s, Wednesday lows in the lower 20s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s, Wednesday lows in the upper 20s to lower 40s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s, Wednesday lows in the mid to upper 40s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with fog. Highs in the upper 20s to mid 40s, Wednesday lows in the mid 20s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the lower to upper 40s, Wednesday lows in the low 30s to low 40s

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid 50s to upper 60s, Wednesday lows in the mid 30s to low 50s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s, Wedneso lows in the mid 20s to mid 30s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

SUN & MOON 6 Full moo 26 Dec First qtr 18 Dec

LO 75 40 03 51 71 31 24 64 45 40 57 28 45 64 72 32 62 47 88 72 31 75 83 53 43 78 54 TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

67/46

×

Pt. Cldy. AFRICA

Cat PCIdy Ci Ci Cidy PCIdy Ci Ci Ci Ci Ci Ci Ci Single Ci Ci 28 47 45 45 5 58 50 27 55 50 36 25 53 24 27 49 32 E 28 PCbi 21 Cbi 10 PCbi 28 PCbi 16 Snov 24 Cbi 17 PCbi 18 PCbi 23 Ci 17 PCbi 22 Ci 22 PCbi 36 PCbi 18 Ci 15 Cci 15 Cci 15 Cci 50 29 28 49 36 45 32 31 41 40 52 38 50 51 35 35 46 36 39 61 25 24 24 74 48 31 42 39 51 20 28 Snow Cir PCidy PCidy Cir PCidy Cir PCkty PCisy Cir PCisy Snow PCisy PCi Snow Snow Cldy Cldy Cir Cir Snow Cir 20 21 43 17 8 2 25 25 19 19 21 28 20 15 33 52 26 43 28 58 44 29 50 27 Snov Rair Ci Cidy

ar 32 51 38 37 42 46 44 37 58 33 48 29 38 74 16 33 23 21 29 18 22 20 35 16 37 16 22 49 19 27 25 40 18 20 26 27 PCIBy PCIBy Cital PCital Snow PCidy PCidy Rain 28 43 11 49 37 Snov PCIde Ci 42 54 58 41 38 24 28 59 32 85 50 22 23 15 16 39 18 75 38 33 Snow Cir PCidy Ci

Warm frnt. Trough

73/47

62/34

72147

Karac 87/60

PCldy Cir Cir Cir Cir 25 5 28 4 4 73 23 16 27 43 23 19 22 19 33 16 17 14 20 38 21 22 44 25 20 25 25 45 23 24 16 19 36 Rain (Rody)

Coronal Crot of the Crot of t

Occluded fr. Staty. front

MIDEAST

New Delhi

85/56

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to ETS





Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



Horoscope

get the impression that you're living in a cartoon world where rhymes hardly feel out of place and people seem more like Dr. **Holiday Mathis**

Seuss characters than flesh-and-blood humans The moon enters friendly Aquarius, infusing us with eccentric creativity and the need to share it. Find your inner wackiness

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 14). Your strong will creates success and happiness this year. You're able to knock down

the barrier erected between you and what you want. Surround yourself with mentors and friends especially wise ones, as you enter the new year. Creative partners turn into love partners in February, and love partners work together creative ly, too. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 45 23 19 and 31

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're not striving to merely get

ahead of the ball; you want to sink it in the goal and win the whole game! Don't be surprised if everyone around you is thinking much smaller. Give yourself and your colleagues a pep talk

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's not fair. While some try hard to

capture the attention of an uncaring world, you simply show up, and everyone responds. To claim you've got charisma would be an understatement. You're electro-luminescent

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Others are so friendly and helpful,

you'll wonder if they're up to some thing. No, you're just easy to be nice to. Continue to tip big and bring your winning personality to all you encounter. A new love is among your admiring public.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

When you dare to speak up, you surprise yourself! More than another opinion from the peanut gallery, you're a self-styled revolutionary force. So express in the moment. Don't let your ideas swim in the sea of afterthoughts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll feel like the parent, especially when

AS A YOUNG BOY

BEETHOVEN WAS

POWERFULLY BUILT

Peanuts

people who are supposed to be you superiors act like Angst-ridden, misunderstood teens. When they finally ask for your input, you provide an earnest stream of useful feedback

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're centered, but you

team is a mess. It falls on you to pull everyone together, or the group could polarize just when unity is what's required. Beiterate the bottom line and stress the goal you all have in common.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Clear up misunderstandings so vou can build a more

solid support system You're given an uncensored forum to air your grievances, but that doesn't mean you should lose your signature diplomacy. Being nice is

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

The only difference between lettuce and garbage is timing. Your own fine timing could land you a piece of the action in a business venture, a killer deal on a big-ticket item, or a date for Saturday night

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're determined to be pro-active instead of re-active. Be sure to reinforce that to the quantum computer that lives in your brain. Giving

yourself simple tasks to accomplish is your key to success. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). It feels like your life is in the blender. While you're handling the blur around you, you don't have time to put up with anyone's antics. Draw boundaries, or you risk being inundated with the relationship equiva-

lent of useless junk AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

It looks like things are going your way, so back off, and trust the process. Otherwise, your expectations could get so high that your nervous system doesn't know how to react As the teens say, "Be more chill."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Once again, you're floating in a sea of emotions, but this time, it's in more of a yacht than a lifeboat. It's your reward for investing your feelings in a situation that actually deserves your passionate contribution.

Creators Syndicate

HE WAS SHORT OF STATURE, HAD

BROAD SHOULDERS, A SHORT NECK, A LARGE HEAD AND A ROUND NOSE





YEAH, I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD STOP THE











THIS SPECIAL PLACE

ME ARE TWEETHER



CALL















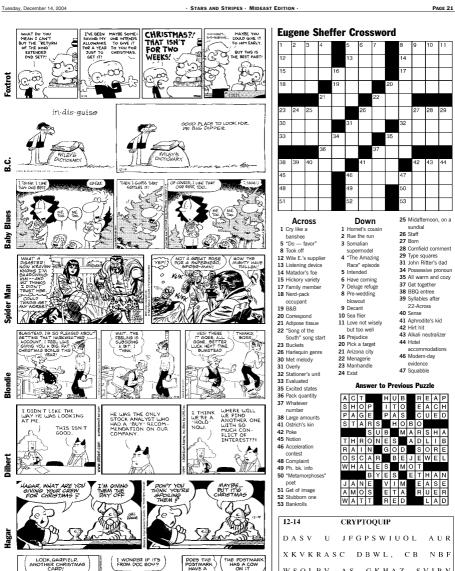


ĕ









AUR

WSOLBV A S GKHAZ SVIBN

ВХ JUHSW?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU SAID THAT YOU INVENTED BALLOONS, BUT I HAVE TO BELIEVE YOU'RE FULL OF HOT AIR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals N

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

What's taking

In-laws' extended stay no picnic

Dear Abby: My husband, "Jay's," parents have informed us they are coming for Christmas and will be staying for six weeks. They need at least three weeks because they're having dental work done by another family

member, and it must be stag gered Long visits are acceptable in their culture, but it usually applies when people visit from another country - not another

state. The last time they came, they stayed three weeks. It was a stretch for me, but I bit my tongue. I work from home and was with them 24/7 because they don't like to drive. It's hard on me because they get bored and expect me to entertain them Also, I don't get along well with my father-in-law, and neither of them likes my cooking.

Jay knows six weeks is long. but for him the time goes fast because he works long hours. Jay says he'll talk to his parents about this, but he's miserable at the prospect

- Dreading Christmas in California Dear Dreading: Be a gracious hostess for three weeks

After that, schedule a break. Go visit relatives or, if that's not

feasible, check into a motel. You may find that having had a breather, you'll be in a better frame of mind to deal with the in-laws upon vour return

Dear Abby: I am 22. and recently moved here from a different state. Shortly after I arrived. I met an amaz ing man I'll call Lance.

nce and I met at work and fell for each other instantly

After we had been dating only a month, I found out that I was pregnant with my ex-boyfriend's haby Lance was confused when I told him but after a few days of thinking about it, he told me that the pregnancy didn't change the

way he felt about me. We have now been dating more than two months, and Lance continues to be wonderful and supportive.

I'm afraid that since I'm starting to show, Lance will get scared and break my heart. We have had a few serious talks because I feel he doesn't spend enough time with me.

Lance contends that he spends more time with me than he does his friends or family. Is this rational, or am I overly emotional because of my pregnancy? - Confused in Colorado Dear Confused: You could be

hormonal - or simply extremely

needy because you are vulnerable right now. Lance appears to be standing by you to the best of his ability - and now is not the time to be telling him he isn't measuring up to your standards of companionship. He deserves praise for his loyalty, not criticism for not giving "enough."

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

one letter to each square to form four ordinary words.



NITMAR

TACTIN

Answer-

Jumbles: PYLON RANAI FAMILY SYMBOL What the shepherd discovered when he counted his flock - A LAMB ON THE LAM

THE HOT DOG VENDOR FIRED HIS HELPER BECAUSE HE DIDN'T Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



"Boy! Are you ever gonna get coal in your stocking!"

Teen with cutting problem needs help

Dear Annie: I'm 14. and I think I am suffering from bipolar disorder high manic episodes quickly followed by full-blown depression where I often cut myself to avoid committing suicide or hurting others.

The problem is, I'm not really sure if I have manic depression or if it's just teenage hormones going wild. I would love to receive a proper diag nosis, but I don't know how to approach my parents and ask to see a psychiatrist or somebody. I'm afraid they'll just push it aside and tell me there's nothing to worry about.

Is there any way I can get them to take me seriously? And if they don't, could I see someone with out parental consent? I would really like to get some help be cause the way I feel really sucks. - Kurt Cobain's

Would-Be Stalker Dear Friend: What you de scribe doesn't sound like typical teenage angst. Please talk to your parents, and if you think



they won't listen, talk to a favorite relative, family friend or your school counselor. You also can contact the Depression and Bipo-lar Support Alliance, 730 N. Franklin St., Suite 501, Chicago, IL 60610, 1-800-826-3632 (www.dbsalliance.org). Keep us posted, honey We're worried about

Dear Annie: I am a

social worker who works primarily with the elderly and the disabled in their homes. I have seen my clients receive pieces of official-looking mail, with a Washington, D.C., address and what looks like a government seal, offering to assist people with their government benefits, Social Security, Medicare, or the new Medicare prescription drug program. At the end of the letter, it asks them to complete a form and mail a check.

Please warn your readers that these letters are junk mail dis-

guised as official information and are worthless Official assistance and information on government benefits do not have any fees associated with them. All of these services can be provided free of charge by local senior centers or advocacy groups such as The Center for Healthcare

Rights (healthcarerights.org) I see so many seniors treating this mail seriously, assuming they must respond or miss out on a needed program. People should take these letters to someone they trust before they are cheat-

ed out of thousands of dollars - Social Worker in Los Angeles

Dear Social Worker: Thank you for alerting our readers that official-looking mail asking for money is often a scam. Please, folks, do not send money to an organization without first checking it out

Ing Ir Ott.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox/geomeast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.





"So, whatcha been doin' since LAST CHRISTMAGE



"And I suppose you think is a dream come true.



SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m. — Bowling: PBA Earl Anthony Medford Classic (did). AFN-Atlantic and AFN-Radio, 3 a.m. — NFL: kansas City at Tennessee. AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. — NBA: Orlando at Phoe-

nix.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — College basketball:
Wake Forest at Temple (did).

AFN-Pacffc, 11 a.m. — NFL: Kansas City at
Tennessee (did).

AFN-Sports, noon — NBA: Dallas at Chica-

orts, 3:30 p.m. - Motorcycle racng: THQ World Supercross, 250 cc (dld). **AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.** — NFL: Kansas City at ennessee (dld).

Wednesday

Wednesday

AFN-Atlante, L. am. — College basketball:
USU women at Minnesofta.
Hin-Sports and AFN-Radio, 1:30 am. — College
Hin-Sports and AFN-Radio, 1:30 am. — College
Hinnes-Chicago at Duke.
Hinnes-Chicago at Duke.
Hinnes-Chicago at Duke.
AFN-Sports. noon — NBA: Deriver at PhilaAFN-Sports. 320 pm. — NEL, Pit's verealAFN-Sports. 320 pm. — NEL, Pit's vereal-

delphia (dld).

AFN-Sports, 3:30 p.m. — NFL: NFL's greatest games, 1987 AFC championship game, Cleveland at Denver.

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m. — Pro basketball: L.A. Lakers at Seattle (dld).

All times Central European time; dld indi-cates delayed broadcast. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

1. Illinois (9-0) beat Chicago State 78-59; beat Georgetown 74-59; beat Oregon 83-66. 2. Kansas (6-0) beat Texas Christian 93-44; beat Louislana-Lafayette 95-51. 3. Georgia Tech (6-0) beat Air Force 64-42. 4. Syracuse (6-1) lost to No. 5 oklahoma State 74-69; beat Binghamton 85-65. 5. Oklahoma State (7-0) beat No. 4 Syra-cuse 74-69; beat Alabama-Birmingham-

6. Wake Forest (6-1) did not play.
7. Connecticut (4-1) beat Northeastern
97-60; lost to Massachusetts 61-59.
8. North Carolina (7-1) beat Loyola of Chi-

North Carolina (*1) beat Loyola of Circago 105-60.
 Duke (6-0) beat Toledo 82-54.
 Northucky (6-1) beat Morehead State 71-40; beat Indiana 73-58.
 The Paris State 84-71.
 North Carolina State (7-0) beat Liberty 12. North Carolina State (7-0) beat Liberty.

450. The recommendation of the recommendatio

78-53.
21. George Washington (6-1) beat St. Fran-cis, Pa. 79-65.
22. Mississippi State (7-2) beat Arkan-

cis, Pa. 79-65.

22. Mississippi State (7-2) beat Arkan-sas-Little Rock 83-53.

23. Maryland (5-2) beat North Caroli-nation of the Carolina of the Carolina

Sunday's men's scores

Sumday's ment's scores

EAST
Carnegie-Mellon 98, 10, 60

East Strouchburg 79, Green Mountain 63

Princefon 95, Monmouth, NJ. 52

Skidmore 76, Washington & Jefferson 61

Yeshiva 89, Centenary, NJ. 67

Bellarmine 90, SOUTH

Ellarmine 90, SOUTH

Christopher Newport 69, Randolph-Macon

16

seasamme 98, Quincy 88
seasamme 98, Quincy 88
Cossal Garcinian St. Coler 50
Co

W. New Mexico 79, St. Edward's 60 Washington 100, Loyola Marymount 93 TOURNAMENT Bard College Raptor Classic Third Place Newbury 67, Bard 62

AP Women's Top 25 fared

AP Women's Top 25 fared bee. 612

1.531 (69) old not play.

1.531 (69) old not play.

1.531 (69) old not play.

1.541 (61) beat 1.541 (61) bea

best Oral Roberts 79-46: Deat Mississippi Al- Vanderbill (7-1) lost to Western Ken-Lev's Ser'), best Saint Louis 94-31. Hernick Ser'), best Saint Louis 94-31. Hernick Ser'), best Saint Louis 94-31. Fremenseer 84-3. 19-41. Parker 86-91. Parker 86-91. (Piet top 10, 18-mineseer 84-3. 19-41. Parker 86-91. Parker 86-91. (Piet top 10, 19-41. Parker 86-91. Parker 86-91. Parker 86-91. 19-42. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-42. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-42. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-43. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-44. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-45. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-45. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-45. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-46. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-46. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-46. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-47. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-47. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-47. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-48. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-48. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49. 19-49. Past Kommouth, N. L. 81-49.

70-92. 25. Kansas State (5-2) beat Missouri-Kan-sas City 63-31.

Sunday's women's scores

EAST Becker 89, Lesley 73 Cazenovia Becker 89, Lesley 73 Cazenovia 78, Hartwick 51 Dartmouth 66, Manhattan 52 East Stroudsburg 68, Cheyney 50 Elizabeth City St. 78, West Liberty Indiana 62, Boston U. 60 Kings, Pa. 49, Oneonta 40 Loyola, Md. 51, Towson 48

Loyöla, Md. 51, Towson 48
Massachusetts 99, Siena 49
Stonehill 83, Bryant 75, OT
SOUTH
Ark.-Little Rock 48, MVSU 37
Duke 83, Liberty 48
Florida 82, Oregon St. 70
Florida 52, Oregon St. 70
Florida 52, Oregon St. 70
Florida 54, Oregon 69, Va. C
wealth 47
Beorge Washington 69, Va. C
wealth 47
Beorge Washington 69, Va. C
Reproductive M. 82, Occhen 42

George, Washington, 69, Va. Common-methypoten, Va. S. Goshen 42 Georgia To. Artisona 62 Georgia To. Artisona 62 Georgia To. Artisona 62 Georgia To. Artisona 62 Hampiton 58, Not. Willmighton 58 Jacksonville St. 66, N.C. Willmighton 58 Jacksonville St. 66, N.C. Willmighton 58 Maryland 61, Monmouth, Val. 49 Maryland 62, Huntingdon 67 Rodes 82, Huntingdon 67 Rodes 82, Huntingdon 67 Tennessee 78, DePaul Gl. Virginia Tech 77, 51, Francis, Pa. 62 Washerford 78, Asint Cosh 51 Washerford 78, Saint Cosh 51 Cent Michigan 78, III Chilosopo 64 Contentingdon 61, 200 Min. 78, O'Concombile, Mon. 78, Chilosopo 64 Concombile, Mon. 73, 51, Maryland 71, 28, Maryland 71, 28, Maryland 78, Min. 78, O'Concombile, Mon. 75, 51, Maryland 71, 28, Maryland 78, Min. 78, O'Concombile, Mon. 75, 51, Maryland 78, Min. 78, O'Concombile, Mon. 75, 51, Maryland 78, Maryland 7

FAR WEST
California 69, Long Beach St. 64
Gonzaga 61, Boise St. 59
Idaho 56, Portland St. 42
Oregon 66, Colorado St. 57
Stanford 80, San Francisco 51

TOURNAMENT Alumni Association Classic Championship Fairmont St. 74, Millersville 56 Third Place West Chester 60, Mass.-Lowell 51

Bowl glance

Emerald Bowl At San Francisco Payout: \$750,000 (7-4) vs. Navy (9-2 Holiday Bowl

At San Diego
At San Diego
Payout: \$2 million
California (12-1) vs. Texas Tech (7-4)
at San Diego
Payout: \$2 million
State (12-1) vs. Texas Tech (7-4)
at San Jose, Calif.
Payout: \$750,000
Troy (7-4) vs. Northern Illinois (8-3)
At Mashwille, Tenn.
Payout: \$780,000
Alabama (6-5) vs. Minnesota (6-5)
At El Paso, Texas

Florida State (8-3) vs. West Vir Capital One Bowl Af Orlando, Fla. Payout: \$5.187 millio lowa (9-2) vs. LSU (9-2)

College football

Tuesday, Dec. 14 New Orleans Bow Payout: \$750,000 North Texas (7-4) vs. Souther

North Texas (7-4) x. Southern Mississis (6-3)
Tuesday, Dec. 21
Change Spert. Bowl George (7-4)
Change Spert. Bowl George (7-4)
Tuesday, Dec. 21
Change Spert. Bowl George (7-4)
Tuesday, Dec. 21
Tuesday, Dec. 22
Mobile, Mill.
Memphis (Sperum x 1990, America)
Memphis (Sperum x 1990, America)
Thursday, Dec. 21
Thursday,

At San Antonio
Payouts \$1.55 million
Ohio State (7-4) vs. Oklahoma State (7-4)
Thursday, Dec. 30
Continental Tire Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Payouts \$750,000
Boston College (8-3) vs. North Carolina
(6-5)

Payont \$776,000
Alabama (6-2) Sun Browl
Al El Pract, Texas Browl
Bodes State (1-1) yes, Louisville (10-1)
Bodes State (1-1) yes, Louisville (10-1)
Alabama
Al Ballan
Al Bal

ia (8-3)

All Passedons, Call
All Passedons, Call
Michigan (1991) vs. (1903) vs. (1903)
First a Bowl
Urah (11-0) vs. Pittsburgh (19-3)
Sagar Bowl
Sagar B

a (12-0)

s. 50uth East-West Shrine Classic At San Francisco

East vs. West
Saturday, Jan. 22
Hula Bowl
At Maui, Hawaii
Aina vs. Kai 7 Saturday, Jan. 29
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South

Division I-AA playoffs

Semifinals
Friday, Dec. 10
James Madison 48, William & Mary 34
Saturday, Dec. 11
Montana 34, Sam Houston State 13
Championshin

Championship Friday, Dec. 17 At Finley Stadium/Davenport Field Chattanooga, Tenn. nes Madison (12-2) vs. Montana (12-James Ma ana (12-2)

Division III playoffs Semifinals

Saturday, Dec. 11 Mary Hardin-Baylor 38, Mount Union, Ohio 5 Linfield, Ore. 52, Rowan, N.J. 0 Championship Saturday, Dec. 18 Stagg Bowl At Salem Stadium

At Salem Stadium Salem, Va. Mary Hardin-Baylor (13-1) vs Linfield, Ore. (12-0)

NAIA playoffs

Saturday, Dec. 18 At Jim Carroll Stadiu Hardin County, Tenn.
St. Francis, Ind. (13-0) vs. Carroll, Mont (11-2)

Golf Target World Challenge

At Shewood Quarty Club Thousand QuSt, Calif. Thousand QuSt, Calif. Yustee 52.5 million 71. Tiger Words 12.5 million 71. Tiger Words 12.5 million 15.66.66.66.66.27 Jay Hans, \$447,500.75.00.69.66.67.96.27 Jay Hans, \$447,500.75.00.69.66.67.91.27 Jim Eury, \$240,000.95.00.00.67.68.67.71.27 Jim Eury, \$240,000.95.00.00.67.68.67.71.27 Stewart Cink, \$220,000 Vijay Singh, \$205,000 Fred Couples, \$205,000 Chad Campbell, \$190,000 Chris DiMarco, \$185,000 John Daly, \$172,500 Davis Love III, \$172,500 74-69-68-68-279 68-70-71-70-279 70-68-69-73-280 69-67-70-75-281 73-69-75-65-282 70-66-74-72-282

Davis Love III, \$172,300 Kenny Perry, \$165,000 Todd Hamilton, \$155,000 Chaphen Ames, \$155,000

Mary Legand Creek of the Control of

Graeme Storm, England Damien McGrane, Ireland Euan Little, Scotland Tim Clark, South Africa

| Michael Kirk, South Africa | 71-72-69-73-285 | Richard Finch, England | 72-69-72-73-286 | Des Ferblanche, S. Africa | 70-74-71-72-287 | Martin Martix, South Africa | 70-71-78-99-288 | Lain Garbutt, England | 71-72-76-99-288 | Lain Garbutt, England | 71-72-76-90-288 | Lain Steel, Maldives | 70-73-75-70-288 | Mark Murless, South Africa | 69-91-710-288 | Mark Murless, South Afric Garry Houston, Wales 80-68-69-71-288 Leif Westerberg, Sweden 70-70-76-72-288

College soccer

Division I men's tournament

Men's College Cup
At The Home Depot Center
Carson, Calif.
Semifinals
Friday, Dec. 10
Indiana 3, Maryland 2, OT
UC Santa Barbara 5, Duke
Championalip
Championalip
Lidiana 1, UC Santa Barbara 1,
von 3-2 on penalty kicks

College volleyball

Division I women's tournament

Regional Finals Saturday, Dec. 11 At Green Bay, Wis Stanford def. Wisconsin 30-26) y, Wis. 1, 3-0 (30-19, 31-29,

30-26)

At Louisville, Ky.
Southern California def. Nebraska, 3-2
(33-35, 30-27, 30-21, 34-36, 15-12)

At Minneapolis
Minneasota def. Ohio State, 3-2 (30-32, 34-32, 27-30, 30-28, 15-8) At Seattle
Washington def. UCLA, 3-2 (27-30, 30-19, 30-28, 24-30, 15-9)

Semifinals
Dec. 16
At Long Beach, Calif.
Southern California (23-5) vs. Minnesota
Stanford (28-6) vs. Washington (28-2)
Championship
At Long Beach, Calif.
Semifinal winners

Deals

Weekend transactions

RASFRALL BASEBALL
American League
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Acquired LHP
rthur Rhodes from Pittsburgh for OF Matt
awton. Named Nick Kenney assistant ath-

etic trainer.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Acquired RHP Chad saudin from Tampa Bay for C Kevin Cash.
National League
ATLANTA BRAYES—Acquired RHP Dan Colb from Milwaukee for RHP Jose Capellan

(olb from MINMAUNCE IN MINMAUNC

neuget cemens accepted salary arbitration
National Executed Association
OLDEN STATE WARRINGS—Flaced G
OLDEN STATE WARRINGS—Flaced G
OLDEN STATE WARRINGS—Flaced C
OLDEN STATE WARRINGS—Flaced C
OLDEN STATE WARRINGS—Flaced C
OLDEN STATE WARRINGS—Flaced C
OLDEN STATE
OLDEN

olds.

CHICAGO BEARS—Signed G Bryan Anderon. Waived LB Corey Jenkins.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Placed T Chris Terry
in injured reserve. Signed WR Jason Willis
rom the practice squad. rom the practice squad.

Arena Football League

ARIZONA RATTLERS—Re-signed FB-LB

ank Trentadue.

DALLAS DESPERADOS—Signed OL-DL Rick-SIMPKINS.
GEORGIA FORCE—Signed WR-LB Jimmy tobinson.

LOS ANGELES AVENGERS—Signed OL-DL Fred Ray to a two-year cont

HOCKEY
American Hockey League
AHL—Suspended Lowell coach Tom Rowe
and D Allan Rourke and Norfolk coach Trent
awney indefinitely for their roles in a brawl uring a Dec. 11 game.
MANCHESTER MONARCHS—Signed D

MANUTESTER
JASON Holland Hockey League
TULSA OILERS—Waived D Josh Akright.
LACROSSE
MAINT LACROSSE
MAINT LACROSSE
BUFFALO BANDITS—Signed D Chris White
to a three-year confract.
CALGARY ROUGHNECKS—Re-signed
Sout Forbes to a one-year confract.
FORT HAYS STATE—Named Kevin Verdug
forbball coach.

oothall coach.

MARYLAND—Announced sophomore basweetball F Hassan Fofana has decided to
ransfer to another school.

NOTRE DAME—Named Charlie Weis football coach, and signed him to a six-year con-

ract.
POST, CONN.—Named Matt Micros wompost, CONN.—Named Matt Micros wompen's and women's cross country coach.
SAM HOUSTON STATE—Announced the reirement of Ron Randleman, football coach.
SOUTH CAROLINA.—Named Madre Hill asistant football coach.
TSAMPORD—Named coach.

UTAH—Named Andy Ludwig offensive coordinator and Derrick Odum secondary

TANK MCNAMARA



Dodgers GM says reports of trade for Hudson 'overblown'

BY JOHN NADEL

ANAHEIM. Calif. - Tim Hudson might not be Los Angeles-bound after all

Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta and his Oakland counterpart, Billy Beane, have talked extensively about Hudson at baseball's winter meetings

But DePodesta denied a report that a deal was close to being completed.

"It has been overblown." DePodesta said late Sunday. "At times, it has been reported it was done. That was never the case. We continue to still talk with them.

"My understanding is they're still dealing with a lot of teams. They're exploring their options. They're not ready to do some-

Beane said the A's are "closer



Hudson

but added he wouldn't say there's anything imminent.

"Don't assume who or what you think it is," Beane

said. "I don't think a real big deal is going to hannen and you

can decipher what you think is a big deal The 29-year-old Hudson, 12-6 with a 3.53 ERA last season, recently set a March 1 deadline for the A's to offer him a contract ex-

tension or he'll leave as a free agent following next season. DePodesta said he and Beane know each other so well that they can get something done quickly if

"We haven't even gotten to the

point where we've made an offer," DePodesta said. "We've talked about specific players We're on the same wave length in terms of players. I don't think there's much mystery on either

There shouldn't be, because the two are close friends and DePodesta was Reane's assistant in Oakland before taking the Dodgers' job last February

"I don't think this is going to drag on indefinitely." DePodesta "I don't see it dragging on for two weeks. It's crazy how these things can go. Anything can come up.

DePodesta said published reports naming right-hander Edwin Jackson and infielder Antonio Perez in connection with a possible Hudson trade "aren't entirely accurate."

Woods meets Challenge after disappointing year

BY DOUG FERGUSON The Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. -Tiger Woods didn't say anything new about his game.

He said it was great to see the changes in his swing start coming together. He said he no longer had a long checklist of swing thoughts when he stood over the He said he was close.

Only now, Woods has some trophies to prove it.

With perhaps the most complete round of his season. Woods missed only one green and two fairways Sunday to close with a 5-under 66 and win the Target World Challenge by two shots over Padraig Harrington.

Every shot I wanted to hit. I hit," Woods said.

He played the final 32 holes at Sherwood Country Club without a bogev and finished at 16-under 268, earning \$1.25 million that he donated to his foundation. For a guy who couldn't do

much right this year - no PGA Tour stroke-play wins for the first time in his career, no majors for the second straight season Woods can't seem to do anything wrong heading into the short off-

It was his second straight stroke-play title, both after the PGA Tour season ended. Late last month, he won the Dunlon Phoenix on the Jananese tour by going wire-to-wire for an eight-shot victory. On Sunday, he quickly erased a two-shot deficit to Colin Montgomerie, pulled ahead of Harrington with a bold drive and perfect pitch, then held off the Irishman by not missing a

Tiger Woods, right, hugs his

Thousand Oaks, Calif.

father Earl after winning the Tar-

get World Challenge on Sunday in

He must be excited for the 2005 season to get here.

Woods said. "After the Tour Championship, and going into it, it was exciting that the things I had been working on started to come together. It's nice not to have a big laundry list out there. I have a key thought here and there and hit a golf shot.

3B Koskie signs with Toronto on slow Sunday at winter meetings

By RONALD BLUM The Associated Press

ANAHEIM Calif - On a quiet day at the winter meetings, the only deal with a free agent was a preliminary agreement between third baseman Corey Koskie and the Toronto Blue Jays on a \$17 million, three-year contract,

There was just one trade, with the Blue Jays sending catcher Kevin Cash to Tampa Bay for right-hander Chad Gaudin

A Seattle executive told an agent that the Mariners thought they were close to agreement on a three-year contract with Richie Sexson, who also was negotiating with Baltimore. An official of another team that had sought the first baseman said the deal being discussed averaged about \$11 mil-

With the meetings wrapping up Monday, teams appeared more concerned about setting up the groundwork for future deals than actually finalizing swaps and con-Carlos Beltran's agent dis-

cussed the All-Star center fielder with the Yankees, who also met with the agent for Pedro Martin-While New York manager

Brian Cashman said he hadn't made an offer to Beltran, he re fused to say whether he offered a contract to Martinez — the three-time Cy Young Award win-

Oakland discussed trading Tim Hudson to Los Angeles, Boston and St. Louis both went after shortstop Edgar Renteria, Tampa Bay talked with Juan Gonzalez and Anaheim attempted to reel in pitcher Matt Clement.

"There's really no movement forward but none backward since

Free agent roundup

vesterday." Angels General Manager Bill Stoneman said, describing his team's situation in words that could be applied to the whole industry.

Since the meetings opened Friday, just three trades and three signings have been announced. Arizona reached a preliminary agreement Sunday on a one-year deal with shortstop Royce Clayton worth about \$1.3 million, and Cleveland moved close to a one-year agreement with second baseman Jose Hernandez.

It's not like the old days, when Jack McKeon and Roland Hemond set up shop ready to wheel and deal. In the age of e-mail, cell phones, complex guarantee language, physicals and insurance, what used to be done with a handshake now needs lawyers and doctors to chime in

Even when teams do make deals, they don't announce them until each clause in the letter of agreement has been approved and the last X-ray perused

"I remember when I first start. ed going to winter meetings, there were a lot more trades made, especially in the lobby of the hotel," New York Mets General Manager Omar Minava said "It's just a different day and age.

After meeting with agent Scott Boras, Cashman thought it would take a while to work out a deal for Beltran, likely to get the largest contract of the winter.

"We're barely out of the start-ing blocks on this." Cashman

The key date in the Beltran talks might be Jan. 8 — the last

day he can re-sign with the Hous-"That's one of the consider-

ations " Roras said Minaya has been trying to sign Martinez and another starter, perhaps Odalis Perez, and also a first

"We're still in dialogue. The fact that we're in dialogue means that we're still alive," he said of Martinez. "It gets to the point where you need some type of an-

Boston General Manager Theo Epstein wouldn't give direct answers to questions about specific

"It's been another very busy day," he said. "There are a lot of hurdles left to climb, but there are a lot of good opportunities out there'

Anaheim appeared confident of adding pitching. "We're going to get something

done," Stoneman said. "We just don't have it done. You have to be patient. When all's said and done, we'll help ourselves in the 'pen When all's said and done we'll help ourselves in the rotation.'

Koskie's deal is subject to an agreement on contract language and the infielder passing a physical, a baseball official familiar with the negotiations said on condition of anonymity

The 31-year-old Canadian hit .251 with 25 homers and 71 RBIs last season for the Minnesota Twins. He batted .276 with 26 homers and 103 RRIs in 2001 but his games decreased from 153 that year to 140 the following season, 131 in 2003 and 118 this year

In Toronto, Koskie will take over at third base from Eric Hinske, the 2002 AL Rookie of the Year Toronto either will move Hinske to first base or trade him.

Bryant accuses Malone of making pass at his wife

LOS ANGELES - Another Kobe conflict for the Lakers.

Bryant has accused Karl Malone of making a pass at his wife at a game last month.

Talking before Los Angeles' 105-98 victory over Orlando on Sunday night, Bryant said he felt betrayed by a man he considered

"He was like a mentor, like a brother to me, so when something like that happens, you're upset, you're hurt," Bryant said.

He said he called Malone and told him, "Stay away from my wife. What's wrong with you? How could you?"

Malone was not available for comment Sunday, but agent Dwight Manley said Malone told him he had never made a pass at Bryant's wife, that he was surprised by the accusation, and that he then applogized to both Bryant and his wife for any remarks she might have considered inappro-

"Karl's response to Kobe's comments today is that he's a basketball player and not a soap opera actor and he doesn't intend to be involved in a personal soan opera," Manley said of his client Asked if there might have been

a misunderstanding, Bryant said, "What he said is what he said. I believe in my heart that it wasn't a misunderstanding.

Sports briefs

Indiana captures another NCAA men's soccer title

CARSON, Calif. - Jay Nolly saved two penalty kicks and Indiana won its second straight NCAA Men's College Cup title Sunday, beating UC Santa Barbara 3-2 in a penalty kick shootout

The teams were tied 1-all after regulation and two 10-minute overtime periods, forcing the shootout

The second-seeded Hoosiers won for the 10th time in 11 games and earned their seventh NCAA title the first under coach Mike Freitag who replaced Jerry Veagley this season.

Bertuzzi returns to ice

VANCOUVER, British Colum-- Vancouver Canucks forward Todd Bertuzzi returned to the ice Sunday for the first time since being suspended for attack-ing Colorado's Steve Moore, playing in a charity game that includ-ed more than 30 locked out NHL players.

Bertuzzi received a standing ovation from the capacity crowd during pregame ceremonies. It was the All-Star forward's first public appearance in Vancouver since Aug. 26, when he pleaded not guilty to assault charges for sucker-punching Moore. His trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 17.

Bobcats still looking for first road victory

OAKLAND, Calif. - The Golden State Warriors finally put together a strong second half and avoided becoming the first team to lose at home to the Charlotte Robcats.

Jason Richardson scored 24 points to help the Warriors keep the Bobcats winless on the road with a 99-87 victory on Sunday

"This was a game unlike any we've had this year where we played well in the second half," Troy Murphy said. "There are no

easy wins in this league."

Murphy had 17 points for the Warriors, who outscored Char lotte 53-35 in the second half. Cliff Robinson added a season-high 21 points, Speedy Claxton had 18 points and seven steals and Mike Dunleavy grabbed a season-high 14 rebounds.

"A lot of games have been close enough at the end and we can't pull it off," Richardson said. "To fight for the lead and gain it is good for us.

Emeka Okafor had 21 noints and 13 rebounds for the Bobcats, who lost their fourth straight and fell to 0-10 away from home.

"It's a loss but we're competitive," Okafor said. "It's great entertainment. It's not 'ho-hum, trying to stay awake.' Sooner or later we have to pull out some of these darn wins.

Okafor has recorded 10 straight double-doubles, the longest streak by a rookie since Tim Duncan had 10 straight in

Shaquille O'Neal had a 15-game streak in the 1992-93 sea-

Jason Kanano added 17 noints for Charlotte, while the newly acquired Kareem Rush had 13.

"We started a little flat but our

back-ups gave us some good energy," Golden State coach Mike Montgomery said. "They hustled up and down the floor and we needed that.

Trail Blazers 98, Jazz 88: At Portland, Ore., Zach Randolph had 23 points and seven rebounds to help Portland avenge an overtime loss in Utah two nights earli-

The Blazers led by as many as 11 points, but the Jazz narrowed the gap and even took a short-lived lead late in the third quarter before Portland seized control

76ers 107, Bucks 101: Allen Iverson scored a season-high 40 points and Marc Jackson had 20 of his season-high 28 points in the fourth quarter.

Kenny Thomas had 20 points and 17 rebounds, and Iverson had 10 assists, helping host Philadelphia win its second straight game after losing six in a row. Iverson has scored 40 or more points 58 times, including playoffs, in his nine-year career. The Sixers are 40-18 in those games.

Iverson shot 16-for-33, and made all eight of his free throws.

Knicks 107, Nuggets 96: At New York, Jamal Crawford scored 31 points and Stephon Marbury added 25 as the Knicks' starting backcourt combined for 50 more points than their Denver counterparts in New York's victo-

Crawford scored 17 points in the third quarter alone, and Marbury had 11 assists to help New York win for just the second time in six games and snap the Nuggets' four-game winning streak.

Wizards 88, Hornets 69:

Antawn Jamison and Brendan Haywood each scored 17 points to lead the Washington Wizards over the Hornets, the 10th straight loss for New Orleans.



Charlotte Bobcats' Emeka Okafor, right, shoots over the Golden State Warriors' Troy Murphy in the first half on Sunday.

Gilbert Arenas added 16 points, six assists and a season-high six steals for the Wizards, who have won nine of 11

Heat 106, Raptors 98: At Tor-onto, Shaquille O'Neal had 20 points and Dwyane Wade added 20 points, nine rebounds and six assists as the Miami Heat won

their fourth straight. Damon Jones added 16 points for the Heat, who are unbeaten since he became a starter.

Lakers 105. Magic 98: Jumaine Jones hit seven threeointers - six during his 22-point second quarter - and finished with 25 points for Los Angeles.

Kobe Bryant had 23 points, eight rebounds and six assists hours after accusing former teammate Karl Malone of making a pass at his wife.

The Lakers' balanced scoring overcame a 27-point, 13-assist game by Orlando's Steve Francis. Grant Hill added 16 points for the

Krzyzewski joins 700 club with win

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. - Mike Krzyzewski avoids any contact with the outside world before a game, a long-standing ritual that allows him to prepare mentally for the task ahead.

He made a rare exception Sunday, making a phone call to the man who hired him at Duke, former athletic director Tom But-

ters "I did talk to Tom." Krzyzewski said, "to say thanks."

Later, on a court that bears his name Coach K became the sixth active coach to reach 700 victories, watching as Shelden Williams finished with 18 points and 15 rehounds to help the ninth-ranked Blue Devils beat Toledo 82-54.

A rough first three seasons at the school left Krzyzewski with a 38-47 record, but Butters stuck with him. That support has continued throughout his 25 years at Duke, even during two brief musings about leaving for the NBA

"I wonder, 'How lucky was I?' " Krzyzewski said. "At 38-47, somebody's got to be there for you. Duke's always been there for me, and I'll always be there for

During a brief ceremony after the game, Krzyzewski thanked several people within the program, including current and past players, and the Cameron Crazies who pack Cameron Indoor Stadium every game.

He also gave a nod to former coach and mentor Bob Knight, the only one to reach 700 faster than Krzyzewski. Both started their careers with successful tenures at Army, where Krzyzewski played under Knight.



"I really thought about Coach Knight and Tom Butters," Krzyze-wski said. "There's a reason why somebody's in a place they are all the time. Those two people have been unbelievable for my develop-

"If I didn't touch them in my life, I would not have touched so many others. I realize that." J.J. Redick scored 14 points

and Daniel Ewing added 13 for the Blue Devils (6-0). No. 8 North Carolina 109, Loy-

ola of Chicago 60: At Chapel Hill. N.C., Jawad Williams scored 17 points and was one of six North Carolina players in double figures

Rashad McCants and Marvin Williams each added 16 points for the Tar Heels (7-1), who shot 58 percent from the field in their seventh straight game.

Blake Schilb scored 15 points to lead the Ramblers (2-6)

No. 16 Washington 100, Loyo-la Marymount 93: At Los Ange-les, Nate Robinson had 28 points and Tre Simmons added a ca-reer-high 26 for the Huskies (7-1), who are off to their best start in seven seasons.

No. 23 Maryland 96, UNC-Asheville 72: John Gilchrist scored 20 of his 22 points in the second half and the host Terrapins were perfect from the free throw line for just the second time in school history.

Travis Garrison and Chris McCray each had 15 points and D.J. Strawberry scored 13 for the Terrapins (5-2).

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Eastern Conterence					
Atlantic Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	10	10	.500	-	
Boston	8	11	.421	11/2	
Philadelphia	8	12	.400	2	
New Jersey Toronto	7	13	.350	41/5	
I oronto Southeas	a made	16	.304	41/2	
Miami	15	7	.682		
Washington	12	6	.667	1	
Orlando	13	7	.650	î	
Charlotte	4	14	222	9	
Atlanta	4	16	200	10	
Central			.200	10	
Cleveland	12	. 8	.600	-	
Detroit	10	10	.500	2 2 5 7	
Indiana	10	10		2	
Milwaukee	6		.333	5	
Chicago	4	14	.222	7	
Wooten C	·aufa				
Western C	onfe	rei	ice		
Western C	st Divis	ion			
Southwe	st Divis	ion	Pct	GB	
Southwe: San Antonio	st Divis W	ion L 5	Pct .773		
San Antonio Dallas	st Divis W 17 14	ion L 5	Pct .773 .636	3	
San Antonio Dallas Houston	st Divis W 17 14 9	ion L 5 8 12	Pct .773 .636 .429	3 71/2	
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis	17 14 9	5 8 12	Pct .773 .636 .429 .409	3 71/2 8	
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans	17 14 9 9	5 8 12 13 18	Pct .773 .636 .429	3 71/2	
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans Northwee	17 14 9 9 15t Divis	5 8 12 13 18	Pct .773 .636 .429 .409 .053	3 71/2 8	
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans New Aorthwes	17 14 9 9 1 18t Divis	5 8 12 13 18 ion	Pct .773 .636 .429 .409 .053	3 7½ 8 14½	
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans Northwes Seattle Minnesota	17 14 9 9 1 18t Divis 17 13	5 8 12 13 18 ion 4	Pct .773 .636 .429 .409 .053	3 7½ 8 14½ -	
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans New Aorthwes	17 14 9 9 1 18t Divis	5 8 12 13 18 ion 4 7	Pct .773 .636 .429 .409 .053 .810 .650 .600	3 7½ 8 14½ - 3½ 4½	
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans Northwes Minnesota Denver Portland Utah	st Divis W 17 14 9 9 1 st Divis 17 13 12 10 9	5 8 12 13 18 ion 4 7 8 9	Pct .773 .636 .429 .409 .053	3 7½ 8 14½ -	
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans Northwes Minnesota Denver Portland Utah	st Divis W 17 14 9 9 1 st Divis 17 13 12 9 9 Divisio	ion 5 8 12 13 18 ion 4 7 8 9 12	Pct .773 .636 .429 .409 .053 .810 .650 .600 .526 .429	3 7½ 8 14½ - 3½ 4½ 6	
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans Seattle Minnesota Denver Portland Utah Pacific	st Divis W 17 14 9 9 1 st Divis 17 13 12 10 9 Divisio	5 8 12 13 18 ion 4 7 8 9 12 n 3	Pct .773 .636 .429 .409 .053 .810 .650 .600 .526 .429	3 7½ 8 14½ - 3½ 4½ 6 8	
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans Scattle Minnesota Dorttand Utah Phoenix Sacramento	st Divis W 17 14 9 9 1 st Divis 17 13 12 10 9 Divisio	5 8 12 13 18 ion 4 7 8 9 12 n 3 6	Pct .773 .636 .429 .409 .053 .810 .650 .600 .526 .429	3 7½ 8 14½ - 3½ 4½ 6 8	
San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans Seattle Minnesota Denver Portland Utah Pacific	st Divis W 17 14 9 9 1 st Divis 17 13 12 10 9 Divisio	5 8 12 13 18 ion 4 7 8 9 12 n 3	Pct .773 .636 .429 .409 .053 .810 .650 .600 .526 .429	3 7½ 8 14½ - 3½ 4½ 6	

soiden State Sunday's games
New York 107, Denver 98
Miami 106, Toronto 89
Washington 88, New Orleans 69
Washington 88, New Orleans 69
Philadelphia 107, Milwaukee 101
Portland 98, Utah 88
Colden State 99, Charlotte 87
LA. Lakers 105, Orlando 98

Monday's games Washington at Miami Cleveland at Memphis Dallas at Chicago Orlando at Phoenix Boston at L.A. Clippers Tuesday's games

Fut users are at ballas color place at the ballas at the ballas color place at Boston Milami at Washington Pordland at Cleveland or Chicago at Memphis Detroit at New York Colden State at New Orleans Atlanta at Houston Otlando at San Artenio Utah at Phoenia

Knicks 107, Nuggets 96

fouls-Denver 17, New York 29. A-19,763 (19,763)

Heat 106, Raptors 98

MIAMI – E.Jones 1-5 1-3 3, Haslem 6-8 5-7 17, O'Neal 9-13 2-6 20, D.Jones 4-9 5-6 16, Wade 8-17 4-520, Butler 5-8 0-1 11, Doleac 1-5 0-2 2, Dooling 3-4 0-07, Laettner 5-6 0-10. To-tals 42-75 1-73 106. TORONTO – Peterson 6-8 2-3 17, Bosh 7-13 4-15, Wood 3-7 1-2 7, Rose 9-20 4-4 25, Alston 7-13 2-2 19, Marshall 2-10 5-6 9, Murray 2-6 2-2 6, Bonner 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-77 17-23

Mami James J

Wizards 88, Hornets 69

NEW ORLEANS — Lynch 0-7 0-0 0, Freije 1-7 0-0 2, P.Brown 3-9 7-9 13, Wesley 4-8 4-4 12, Garcia 3-7 0-0 6, Harrington 4-9 5-5 14, Ander-sen 2-5 4-6 8, Dickau 4-12 5-6 14, Edwards 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 21-66 25-30 69.

Sep 2 5-46, Dicksus 4 12, 6-4, Edwards 5-2, 4-4, Edwards 5-4, Michael 1-4, Michael

nas 6). Total fouls-New Orleans 17, Wash-ington 24. A - 13.969 (20.674). 76ers 107, Bucks 101

MILWAUKEE — Mason 7-16 7-8 21, Smith 7-16 1-2 15, Gadzuric 4-10 2-6 10, M.Williams 3-6 0-0 6, Redd 8-20 9-10 28, M.James 3-6 3-4 11, Hamilton 0-1 2-2 2, Gill 3-8 0-0 7, Pachulia 0-0 1-2 1, Totals 35-83 25-34 101.

Trail Blazers 98, Jazz 88

UTAH - Harpring 7-13 5-6 19, Boozer 5-9 2-2 12, Okur 4-12 7-10 15, Bell 10-16 0-0 21, Ar-35-77 17-22 88.

PORTLAND — Abdur-Rahim 4-9 4-4 13, Randolph 5-10 13-14 23, Ratliff 0-1 0-0 0, Anderson 5-8 2-2 15, Stoudamire 6-16 2-2 15, Patterson 4-6 2-2 10, Telfair 2-6 3-5 8, Miles 4-8 2-4

son 4-6 2-2 10, Telfair 2-6 3-5 8, Miles 4-8 2-4 10, Przybilla 1-2 2-4 4, Carlisle 0-0 0-0 0, Out-law 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-66 30-37 98. Utah 23 19 26 20-88 Portland 19 31 20 28-98 Three-Point Goals—Utah 1-7 (Bell 1-2, Ar-

Three-Point Guais—Octain 7, 1970 11, Lopez 0-1, Okur 0-1, Harpring 0-2), Portland 6-16 (Anderson 3-3, Abdur-Rahim 1-3, Telfair 1-4, Stoudamire 1-6). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Utah 47 (Okur 12), Port--Note: Reboilds—Utall 47 (OKU 12), Port-land 42 (Przybilla 9). Assists—Utah 26 (Ar-royo 12), Portland 20 (Stoudamire 7). Total fouls—Utah 23, Portland 24, Techni-cals—Okur, Patterson. A—15,802 (19,980).

Warriors 99, Bobcats 87

CHARLOTTE — Okafor 10-19 1-3 21, Kapono 7-12 0-0 17, Brezec 3-7 0-0 6, Hart 3-5 0-0 6, Knight 1-7 4-46, Bogans 0-5 0-0 0, Wallace 3-8 3-7 9, Rush 5-10 2-3 13, Ely 4-7 1-2 9. Totals 36-80 11-19 87.

Lakers 101, Magic 98

ORLANDO — Hill 8-13 0-0 16, Howard 5-8 1-1 11, Battle 3-6 2-2 8, Mobley 5-17 0-0 13, Fran-cis 11-20 5-5 27, Turkoglu 2-7-17-26, Garrity 3-6 0-0 8, Kasun 0-0 1-2 1, Augmon 2-3 0-0 4, Nel-son 1-3 0-0 2, Bradley 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 41-84 10-12 98.

10-12 98. LA. LAKERS — Butler 0-4 0-0 0, Odom 5-9 4-5 15, Mihm 11-18 3-6 25, Bryant 6-23 11-15 23, Atkins 2-4 0-0 5, Cook 0-3 0-0 0, Brown 3-10 3-4 10, Jones 9-11 0-0 25, Divac 1-3 0-0 2, Walton 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 37-87 21-30 105.

LA. Lakers 24 12 23 21—108 Three-Point Coals—Orlando 6.16 (Mobley 3-10, Garrity 2-2, Turkoglu 1-2, Francis 6-2), 4-10, 4

NFL scoreboard

American Conference						
	East					
x-New England N.Y. Jets Buffalo Miami	W 12 9 7	1 4 6	T 00 00		365 260 297	217 192 231
	South					
x-Indianapolis Jacksonville Houston Tennessee	10 7 5 4	36000	0000	.769 .538 .385 .333	220	228
	North					
x-Pittsburgh Baltimore Cincinnati Cleveland		1 5 7 10	0000	.923 .615 .462 .231	270 296	205 307
2 21	West	_	_			
San Diego Denver Kansas City Oakland	10 8 4 4	3 5 8 9	0000		294 341	229 326

National Conference

National Conference						
E	ast					
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA
x-Philadelphia	12	ī	0	.923	357	195
Dallas	5	8	0	385	249	355
N.Y. Giants	5	8	ñ	385	223	267
Washington	4	9	0	.308	183	218
So.	uth		•		100	210
x-Atlanta	10	3	0	.769	267	252
Carolina	6	7	ŏ	.462		
New Orleans	5	8	ŏ	.385	200	257
Tampa Bay	5	8	ŏ	385		
rampa bay		٥	U	-365	251	234
No	rth					
Green Bay	8	5	0	.615		
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	328	313
Chicago	5	8	0	.385		
Detroit	5	8	0	.385	231	285
	est					
Seattle	7	6	0	.538		
St. Louis	6	7	0	.462	260	325
Arizona	4	9	ō	.308	220	284
San Francisco	2	11	ō	.154		
x-clinched division	_		-			
Sunday's games						
Atlanta 35, Oakland 10						
Now Orloans 27 Da	lloc.	12				

Atlanta 35, Oakland 10 7 New Orleans 27, Dallas 13 Buffalo 37, Cleveland 7 Battimore 37, N.Y. Giants 14 Indianapolis 23, Houston 14 Jacksonville 22, Chicago 3 New England 35, Cincinnati 28 Seattle 27, Minnesota 23 Pittsburgh 17, N.Y. 16ts 6 Denver 20, Miami 17 Green Bay 16, Detroit 3 Carolina 20, St. Louis 7 Carolina 20, St. Louis 7 San Francisco 31, Arizona 28, OT San Diego 31, Tampa Bay 24 Philadelphia 17, Washington 14 Monday's game Kansas City at Tennessee

Kansas City at Tennessee

Statuday's games
Pittsburgin at N.Y., Glants
Pittsburgin at N.Y., Glants
Pittsburgin at N.Y., Glants
Pittsburgin at Altanta
Houston at Chicago
Minnesota at Detroit
Seattle at N.Y., Jets
Denver at Kansas City
Buffalo at Cincinnati
Dallas at Philadelphia
San Diego at Cievelana
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Jacksonville at Green Baw Jacksonville at Green Bay Tennessee at Oakland Baltimore at Indiananolis

Monday, Dec. 20
New England at Miami Sunday

Falcons 35, Raiders 10

Oakland 3 0 0 7-10 Atlanta First Quarter Oak-FG Janikowski 52, 459. Atl-Duckett 28 run (Feely kick), 847. Atl-Duckett 29 run (Feely kick), 2:11. Atl-Coleman 39 interception return (Feely kick), 1:14.

tick), 1:14.

Third Quarter

Atl-Duckett 4 run (Feely kick), 5:31.

Fourth Quarter

Atl-Duckett 1 run (Feely kick) 9:00.

Qak-Crockett 1 run (Janikowski kick),

3:27. A-70,616. Ati 23 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards 296 354 23-131 46-219 165 135 0-0 2-54 5-89 2-24 Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost Punts Fumbles-Lost 0-0 1-39 14-28-1 13-21-0 1-1 1-10 4-49.3 4-36.5 2-2 0-0

eministrature 1-93 4-35.5

Femiliary Vanish 25.93 9-75.5

Film of Possession 5-93 9-75.5

Miscell field goals—None.

Saints 27, Cowboys 13 New Orleans 0 10 3 14-27 Dallas 10 0 3 0-13

kick), 2:47. A-64,056.

First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Passing First downs Rushes-yards Rushes-yards Rushes-yards Rushes-yards Rushes-yards Rushes-yards Rushes-yards Rushes-yards Rushing-New Orleans	, McAlliste 3. McAfee	3-2 11-76 28:25 r 30-83, l-1. Dal-
A Description of the Charles	MCAINSCO	1 30-03,
A.Brooks 5-18, Stecker 1-	s, McAree	. i. Dai-
	ari 1-24, A	luerson
2-7, Testaverde 1-2.	. Donalis	

 Testaverde 1-2.
 Passing - New Orleans, A.Brooks 18-31-2-52. Dallás, Testaverde 13-34-1-160.
 Receiving - New Orleans, Stallworth 5-113.
 Horn 5-84, McAllister 4-37, Stecker 2-10, Conwell 1-4, Williams 1-4, Dallas, Witten 4-59.
 Morgan 3-25, Anderson 3-17, K.Johnson 2-50, J.Jones 2-8.

Missed field goal—Dallas, Cundiff 42 (WK).

Bills 37, Browns 7

Cleveland 7 0 0 0 - 7 Buffalo 3 14 3 17-37 First Quarter Buf—FG Lindell 23, 9:11. Cle—Northcutt 3 pass from McCown (Daw-

First downs	6	22
Total Net Yards	17	321
Rushes-vards	17-29	42-215
Passing '	(-12)	106
Punt Returns	1-8	6-34
Kickoff Returns	8-154	2-36
Interceptions Ret.	1-24	2-13
Comp-Att-Int	9-21-2	13-30-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	8-79	1-4
Punts	6-37.5	3-38.0
Fumbles-Lost	5-3	4-2
Penalties-Yards	7-40	7-37
Time of Possession	23:05	36:55

Time of Possession 23:05 36:55

Rushing — Cleveland, Echemandu 5-13, McCown 1-11, W.Green 11-5, Buffalo, McGahee
27-105, Evans 1-48, S.Williams 10-42, Losman
1-10, J.Smith 1-8, Burns 1-2, Bledsoe 1-0.
Passing—Cleveland, McCown 8-20-2-6, Garcia 1-1-0-5, Buffalo, Bledsoe 12-27-1-100, osman 1-2-0-10, Moorman 0-1-0-0. Receiving — Cleveland, Bryant 4-37, Heiden 1-19, Northcutt 2-6, Shea 1-5. Buffalo, Evans -33, Moulds 3-38, McGahee 2-12, Trafford -10, S.Williams 1-10, Reed 1-6, Shelton 1-1. Missed field goal—Cleveland, Dawson 45

Patriots 35, Bengals 27

kick), 10:03.

NE—Patten 48 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 8:31.

NE—Samuel 34 interception return (Vi-natieri kick), 8:19.

Cin—C.Johnson 5 pass from Palmer (Gra-ham kick), 2:31.

ham kick), 2:31.

NE-Faulk 4 run (Vinatleri kick), 22.

Third Quarter
NE-Fauria 17 pass from Brady (Vinatleri kick), 3:10.

Fourth Quarter
Cin-Larson 11 run (Graham kick), 3:10.

Fourth Quarter
Cin-Washington 27 pass from Kitna (Graham kick), 3:50.

	Cin	N
First downs	26	N 2
Total Net Yards	478	35
Rushes-vards	31-150	29-9
Passing	328	25
Punt Returns	3-35	0
Kickoff Returns	5-108	5-10
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-3
Comp-Att-Int	27-37-2	18-26
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	1
Punts	2-30.5	3-54
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0
Penalties-Yards	9-75	2-1
Time of Possession	33:11	26:4
INDIVIDUAL ST	ATISTICS	

Rushing MOVIOUAL STATISTICS
Planting Community (1970)

Billion (1970)

Billion

l-13, Missed field goals—None. Ravens 37. Giants 14 N.Y. Giants 0 7 0 7-14 Baltimore 10 17 10 0-37

Baltimore 10 17 10 0-37

Bal-Moore 12 pass from Boller (Stover dick), 12:04.

Bal-FG Stover 46, 9:01.

Bal-Heap 6 pass from Boller (Stover kick), 19:04.

:05. NY-Umenylora 50 fumble return (Christie ick), 2:43. Bal-Moore 8 pass from Boller (Stover

Bal—Moore 8 pass from Boller (Stover kick), 221. Bal—FG Stover 44, :00. Third Quarter Bal—FG Stover 27, 7:50. Bal—Heap 1 pass from Boller (Stover kick), 1:42.

Fourth Quarter				
NY—Barber 1 run (Christie kick), 3:49.				
A-69.856.				
	NY	Bal		
First downs	11	23		
Total Net Yards	196	353		
Rushes-vards	21-51	44-169		
Passing	145	184		
Punt Returns	2-22	5-54		
Kickoff Returns	7-177	2-45		
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-55		
Comp-Att-Int	10-27-2	18-34-0		
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-9	4-35		
Punts	7-41.1	8-36.6		
Fumbles-Lost	4-4	3-1		
Penalties-Yards	9-65	6-86		
Time of Possession	20:19	39:41		

Penalties-Yards 9-66 6-86 Time of Possession STATISTICS Rushing-New York, Barber 19-55, Maning 1-0, Ponder 1-(minus 4). Baltimore, C.Taylor 25-104, Lieukis 8-32, Boller 4-19, White 4-7, Ricard 1-4, Sams 1-4, Stewart Passing-New York, Manning 4-18-2-27, Warner 6-9-0-127, Baltimore, Boller 18-34-0-219.

219.

Receiving—New York, Shockey 5-83, Toomer 2-53, Barber 2-9, LHilliard 1-9. Baltimore, Heap 5-76, C.Taylor 4-27, Moore 3-37, T.Taylor 3-33, K.Johnson 2-41, Dinkins 1-5.

Missed field goals—None.

Colts 23, Texans 14 Indianapolis 14 0 3 6-23 Houston 0 7 7 0-14

Second Quarter Ind—Wells 3 pass from Carr (K.Brown kick), 8:26.

kick), 8:26. Third Quarter Ind—FG Vanderjagt 30, 11:36. Hou—D.Davis 15 run (K.Brown kick), 6:18. Ind—FG Vanderjagt 43, 7:38. Ind—FG Vanderjagt 44, 1:56. A—70,762. Ind Hou 22 17

First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns 382 273 30-101 28-148 281 125 30-101 28-148 281 125 2-8 1-9 2-41 5-98 1-1 0-0 26-33-0 16-21-1 2-17 5-42 3-37.7 4-43.2 2-0 1-1 Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost Punts Fumbles-Lost

punts | 3-77, 3 (4-1), 3 (4-1), 4 (4-1)

Jaguars 22, Bears 3

Chicago 0 3 0 0 - 3 Jacksonville 7 3 3 9-22 First Quarter Jac-R.Williams 6 pass from Leftwich

Jacksonwille First Quarter 7 3 9—22 2
Jac-R.Williams 6 pass from Leftwich (Scobee kick), 318.00 4
Jac-R6 Scobee 12.80 4
Jac-R6 Scobee 22.30 4
Jac-R6 Scobee 25.25 5
Jac-R6 Scobee 25.25 5
Jac-R6 Scobee 25.25 5
Jackson 25.25

First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Jac 210 332 14-31 28-90 179 242 179 242 4-14 6-63 5-140 3-51 1-38 1-20 17-33-1 25-45-1 5-33 0-0 7-48.3 8-42.6 2-1 1-0 Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost Punts Fumbles-Lost Fumbles-Lost 2-1 1-0
Penalties-Yards 13-104 8-75
Time of Possession 24:17 35:43
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing-Chicago, T.Jones 13-26, Terrell
1-5. Jackšonville, Taylor 21-79, Leftwich 4-8,

nusmuy—Chicago, T.Lones 13-26, Terrell S. Acckson/Hei, Taylor 2-79, Letthich 4-8, Carlon C. Acckson/Hei, E. Lones 13-26, Terrell 2-3, Decision—Chicago, Hutchisson 17-33-1-212, Dackson/Hei, E. Lowin C. S. 45-124, Thomas 3-18, McCle 3-17, Bertan 2-48, Terrell 2-3, Te

Seahawks 27, Vikings 23 mente de la laction de laction de la laction de laction de laction de la laction de laction

Sea Min 26 22 455 374 31-138 25-113 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-vards Rushes-yards
Passing
Punt Returns
Kickoff Returns
Interceptions Ret.
Comp-Att-Int
Sacked-Yards Lost
Punts
Fumbles-Lost
Penalties-Yards 31-138 25-113 317 261 0-0 1-18 5-122 4-90 1-0 2-41 23-34-2 21-34-1 3-17 1-9 4-40.5 4-45.5 0-0 2-1 5-79 5-42

Humbles-Lost 4-40.5 4-45.5 Penalties-Yards 5-79 5-42 Time of Possession 17 1 Penalties-Yards 5-79 5-42 Time of Possession 17 1 Penalties-Yards 17 1 Penaltie Receiving Seattle, D.Jackson 10-135, Rice 5-52, Engram 4-79, Hannam 2-44, Morris 1-12, Alexander 1-12, Minnesota, Moss 4-104, Bussel 1-12, Leson 4-42, O.Smith 4-41, Wiggins 3-33, M.Will-lams 3-23, Campbell 2-14, Ribbinson 1-13. Missed field goal—Seattle, Brown 36 (WL).

Steelers 17, Jets 6 0 0 3 3 - 6 First Quarter NY Jets Pittsburgh

First Quarter
Pit—FG Reed 34, 2:24.
Third Quarter
NY—FG Brien 43, 7:04.
Fourth Quarter
Pit—Tuman 10 pass from Bettis (Reed Pit—Tuman 10 pass from Bettis sick), 12:51. NY—FG Brien 41, 6:16. Pit—Bettis 12 run (Reed kick), 3:00. A—63.581.

NYJ Pit 15 15 296 262 32-107 31-120 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Rushes-yards
Passing
Passing
Punt Réturns
Kickoff Returns
Interceptions Ret.
Comp-Att-Int
Sacked-Yards Lost
Punts 189 142 2-14 2-(-6) 3-58 3-39 2-23 3-85 2-23 3-85 17-31-3 10-20-2

Comp. 64:1401

The Comp. 64:1401

Broncos 20. Dolphins 17 7 7 3 0-17 0 14 3 3-20 Mia—Booker 8 pass from Feeley (Mare kick), 3:01.

vick), 3:01.

Second Quarter
Ma-Moris Ton (Edm Nick), 13:08.
Ma-Moris Ton (Edm Nick), 13:08.
Ma-Moris Ton (Edm Nick), 13:08.
Mila-Moris Ton (Edm Nick), 13:08.
Mila-FG Mare 32, 42:44.

Mia Den 13 24 214 415 22-70 40-196 144 219 2-9 7-36 4-97 1-17 2-0 1-10 17-35-1 16-30-2 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost Punts 4-26 0-0 8-45.1 5-39.6 2-0 2-1 4-40 5-43 Fumbles-Lost Penalties-Yards

Packers 16. Lions 13

Packers 16, Lions 13
Detroit 310 0 0-13
Green Bay First Quarter
Det -FG Hanspen 13, 13-13
Det -FG Hanspen 14, 13-13
Det -FG Hanspen 15, 13-13
Det -F

A-70,497. First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards 228 301 39-193 29-116 Rusines-yarus
Passing
Punt Réturns
Kickoff Returns
Interceptions Ret.
Comp-Att-Int
Sacked-Yards Lost
Punts
Fumbles-Lost 39-193 29-110 35-24 0-0 5-86 2-27 0-0 0-0 5-22-0 19-36-0 2-12 1-3 8-30.6 7-40.1 0-0 0-0

4-87, Franks 4-29, Walker 3-26, Henderson 1-11, Fisher 1-10, Davenport 1-5. Missed field goals—None. Panthers 20, Rams 7

St. Louis 7 0 0 0 - 7 Carolina 7 14 6 0 0 - 20 Car - Muhammad 14 pass from Delhomme (Kasay kick), 7:13. Car-Goings I run (Kasay kick), 1:04. StL-Holt 75 pass from Chandler (Wilkins kick), :06.

rom Chance irom Chance Second Quarter Car—FG Kasay 27, 6:12. Car—FG Kasay 20, :39. Ar—73,306.

Stt. Car 100 18 289 308 21-66 38-119 223 189 3-7 3-9 5-93 2-62 1-6 6-91 16-29-6 16-30-1 3-20 2-17 4-40.0 5-43.6 2-1 3-1 5-44 7-55 24-24 38-36 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Passing
Punt Returns
Kickoff Returns
Interceptions Ret.
Comp-Att-Int
Sacked-Yards Lost
Punts
Fumbles-Lost
Penalties-Yards Time of Possession 24:24 35:36
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—St. Louis, A.Harris 19-61, Mc
Ponald 1-3. Chandler 1-2. Carolina. Goinos

Donald F-3, Chandler 1-2. Carolina, Goings 31-108, Delhomme 5-9. Hoover 1-2-2-9-2-24. Passing—St. Louis, Chandler 16-2-2-24. Carolina, Delhomme 16-30-1-25. Receiving—St. Louis, Holt 6-151. Altarris 4-41, Bruce 3-77. McDonald 1-9, Goodspeed 1-8, Curtis 1-7. Carolina, Muhammad 6-98. Colbert 5-46. Profil 2-40, Seldman 2-7. Houver 1-15. Missed field goals—None.

49ers 31, Cardinals 28 (OT)

San Francisco 7 14 7 0 3–31
Arizona 7 18 7 0 3–31
SF-Lloyd 5 pass from Dorsey (Peterson klck), 9:48.

1:53. Ari—E.Smith 8 run (McCown run), 2:40. Ari—FG Rackers 22, :59. Overtime SF-FG Peterson 31, 8:38. A-35,069. SE

First downs Total Net Yards 23 25 352 374 41-168 25-75 184 299 Rushes-yards Passing Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int 4-34 5-26 3-60 4-71 1-25 0-0 18-34-0 26-44-1 Comp. 4tt-int Feb. 18-34-0 26-44-1 Scacked Vards Lost 1-7 1-8 Punts 7-45.7 5-50.6 Fumbles-Lost 7-70 9-61 Time of Possession 1-1 2-1 Penatties-Yards 17-70 9-61 Time of Possession 18-23 29-99 Paushing San Francisco, Hicks 3d-139, Talackson 5-27, Dorsey 2-2. Arzona, Esmith 18-53, Ayanbadejo 5-13, McCown 1-7, Scobey 1-2.

Passing—San Francisco, Dorsey 18-34-0-191. Arizona, McCown 26-44-1-307. Receiving—San Francisco, C.Wilson 5-83, Hicks 5-29, Lloyd 2-18, T.Jackson 2-13, E.Johnson 2-8, Walker 1-30, Battle 1-10. Arizona, Boldin 9-109, B.Johnson 4-77, Fitzgerald

--a, Bordin 9-109, B.Johnson 4-77, Fitzgerald 4-47, F.Jones 4-34, Edwards 3-39, Scobey 1-4, E.Snith 1-(minus 3). Missed field goal—Arizona, Rackers 34 (WL). Chargers 31, Buccaneers 24

Tampa Bay San Diego 0 7 7 10-24 0 14 7 10-31 Second Quarter SD—Parker 79 pass from Brees (Kaeding

SD—Parker 79 pass from Brees (Kaeding kick), 11:49. TB—Galloway 36 pass from Griese (Taylor kick), 9:02. SD—Osgood 19 pass from Brees (Kaeding kick), :49. Third Quarter
TB—Galloway 4 pass from Griese (Taylor kick), 4:56.

ick), 4:56. SD—Tomlinson 7 run (Kaeding kick), :30. Fourth Quarter TB—Clayton 20 pass from Griese (Taylor IB—Clayton 20 pass from Grese (Taylor kick), 6:53. SD—D.Edwards 30 interception return (Kaeding kick), 4:09. SD—FG Kaeding 40, 2:06. TB—FG Taylor 41,:16. A—65,858.

25 SD 21 18 436 336 18-63 30-130 373 206 3-5 2-10 5-106 7-0 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns
 Kickoff Returns
 5-106
 5-82

 Interceptions Ret.
 2-0
 3-46

 Comp-Att-Int
 36-50-3
 17-23-2

 Sacked-Yards Lost
 3-19
 2-14

 Pumbles-Lost
 5-40-4
 4-8-8

 Penalties-Iost
 12-111
 4-46-3

 Time of Possession
 32-30
 27:30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Tampa Bay, Pittman 12-42, Aistott 4-12, Graham 1-6, Griese 1-3. San Diego, omlinson 25-131, Neal 1-2, Brees 4-(minus 3). Passing—Tampa Bay, Griese 36-50-3-392. San Diego, Brees 17-232-220. Receiving—Tampa Bay, Clayton 9-145, Pittman 6-46, Galloway 5-76, Dilger 4-26, Heller 3-19, Jurevicius 2-33, Alstott 2-23, Brown 2-14, Smart 2-10, Griese 1-(minus 4). San Diego, Parker 6-118, Tomlinson 4-19, McCardell 3-30, Osgood 2-27, Gates 1-17, Peeile 19, London 19,

1-9. Missed field goals—Tampa Bay, Taylor 30 (WL). San Diego, Kaeding 51 (WR).

SEE NFL SCORES ON PAGE 27

It's tighter than expected, but Eagles win

BY JOSEPH WHITE The Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. - Tights game? No. Tight game? Yes. With some of the focus on coach Andy Reid's possible future spandex practice attire, the Philadelphia Eagles got an unevpectedly stiff challenge from the Washington Redskins on Sunday

night before emerging with a 17-14 victory The Eagles (12-1) won their fifth straight, the other four by 21 points or more. They also had beaten every NFC team they'd played this season by at least 10 until Sunday.

"You're not going to be able to go out and click on all cylinders all the time," said safety Brian Dawkins, who made a late game-saving interception. "There's going to be struggles sometimes. We're trying to build something special, and these games help us because more than likely it's going to be like this in the playoffs.

The Eagles, who clinched the NFC East title two weeks ago, secured a first-round bye earlier Sunday when Atlanta beat Oakland. The victory also moved Reid ahead of Washington's Joe Gibbs into first place in winning percentage among active coaches. Reid's record is 68-34 (.667) ahead of Hall of Fame coach Gibbs' 144-74 (.661). The tense finish left no room in



Washington's James Thrash (83) watches as teammate Shawn Springs is carted off the field with a concus sion after being blocked by Philadelphia Eagles fullback Josh Parry during the fourth quarter Sunday night.

the locker room for any jocularity over Reid and his black spandex tights. Reid has promised to wear the tights if Terrell Owens catches 15 touchdown passes this season, but Owens remained at 14 after being held to six catches for 46 vards. He also lost a fumble at

the Redskins 8 in the first half. "It was just one of those games where it doesn't come out as crisp

as you want on both sides of the ball, but, hey, we're coming out of here 12-1," said quarterback Donovan McNabb, who completed 21 of 38 passes for 260 yards with a TD and an interception. The Redskins fell to 4-9, assur-

ing Gibbs of a losing record in his comeback season. His only losing mark in his first 12-year stint in Washington was 7-9 in 1988.

Washington entered the game with faint playoff hopes, but players afterward sounded as though they were happy with the moral victory and the momentum it could build for next year.

"They won the game, but they respect us." tackle Chris Samuels

The Redskins had a chance to win with the hall at the Eagles 27 inside the last 2 minutes, but Patrick Ramsey threw into dou ble coverage trying to hit Chris Cooley in the back corner of the end zone. Dawkins and Lit Sheppard had the play covered, and Dawkins managed to stay in-bounds while cradling the ball

"I saw the ball go up," Dawkins said. "And I was just thinking to myself, 'Make sure you catch the

Ramsey went 29-for-42 for 251 yards for the Redskins, and Laver anues Coles caught 12 passes for 100 yards despite a chronic toe injury that kept him out of practice for most of the week.

Washington was hurt by 12 penalties for 137 yards. Mike Sellers was whistled for three personals, all on special teams.

The game was marred by several injuries. Eagles linebacker Jason Short broke a leg and is out for the season. Redskins cornerback Shawn Springs was taken off on a backboard with a concussion, the result of a clean blindside block by fullback Josh Parry. Springs was hospitalized as a precaution but will be OK, according to Gibbs

The Eagles, already without defensive linemen Derrick Burgess and Jerome McDougle, had three more injured in the first half.

Jevon Kearse hurt his neck and limped off twice with an ankle injury, but at least he kept coming back. Hollis Thomas dislocated his left elbow and will be re-examined Monday. Corey Simon had back spasms and didn't return.

NFL SCORES, FROM PAGE 26

Eagles 17, Redskins 14 7 0 10 0-17 7 0 0 7-14

First Quarter
Was—Portis 5 run (J.Hall kick), 14:14.
Phi—Smith 2 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 12:49. Third Quarte Phi—FG Akers 38, 10:43.

Phi—Levens 1 run (Akers kick), :25. Fourth Quarter
Was—Portis 2 run (J.Hall kick), 12:04. A—90,089.

Total Net Yards Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost 1-0 1-10 21-38-1 29-46-1 2-15 3-27 7-43.1 9-40.9 2-1 1-0 Punts Fumbles I net 12-137

Iume of Possession 2.03 33:57 INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS Rushing—Philadelphia, Westbrook 12-59, McNabb 2-8, Levens 3-0. Washington, Portis 23-80, Betts 2-8. Passing—Philadelphia, McNabb 21-38-1-260. Washington, Ramsey 29-45-1-251, Portis 0-1-0-0.

0-1-0-0.

Receiving—Philadelphia, Westbrook 6-59, Owens 6-46, Pinkston 3-99, G.Lewis 2-29, Smith 2-12, Levens 1-13, Mitchell 1-2, Washington, Coles 12-100, Cooley 5-75, Gardner 4-25, Portis 4-22, Thrash 2-22, Betts 1-6, Royal 1-1, Missed field goals—Philadelphia, Akers 48 (SH), Washington, J.Hall 43 (WR).



Mondays in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com

Ravens give Giants' Manning a lesson

BALTIMORE - Operating on assumption that things couldn't possibly get worse for Eli Manning, Tom Coughlin has decided to stick with the mokie quarterback

Manning accounted for half of the New York Giants' six turn-overs and the Baltimore Ravens took full advantage of the miscues in a 37-14 victory Sunday. Manning went 4-for-18 for 27

vards and two interceptions and lost a fumble before being lifted by Coughlin in the fourth quarter. Kurt Warner twice drove the Giants downfield and produced New York's lone offensive touchdown, but the veteran will be back on the bench next week

when the Giants seek to snan a six-game skid against Pittsburgh. "Our young quarterback obvi-ously struggled today. I gave him every opportunity to work his through it; it was obvious at one point that it wasn't going to happen today," Coughlin said. Kurt played very well at the end of the game, but Eli is still the

starting quarterback Warner, who began the seas as the starter, went 6-for-9 for 127 yards. But he knows that the Giants won't soon give up on Manning, the top pick in the draft.

"This guy is the quarterback of the future for the New York Gi-ants, period," Warner said. You're going to have some of these games when you're trying to grow and learn in this league."



Manning chalked up his shoddy performance as a learning experience, admitting that little went right in his fourth career

'I don't know if I can pin it on one thing. I didn't play well, I missed throws, I made bad deci-' he said. "You've got to sions. give some credit to the Ravens

Coming off two straight losses in which they allowed a combined 39 fourth-quarter points, the Ravens repeatedly frustrated Ravens repeatedly frustrated Manning before finally forcing him to the bench.

Manning was not alone in his frustration Sunday. The Ravens (8-5) gave the Giants a multitude of looks on defense, and the result was that New York could muster only 55 yards of offense through the first three quarters.

Boller threw reer-high four touchdown passes for the Ravens, who led by 20 points at halftime and 37-7 entering the fourth quarter.

Clarence Moore and Todd Heap had two touchdown catches apiece, and Chester Taylor ran for 104 yards. Jamal Lewis started at tailback for the Ravens, but saw limited action because of an ankle sprain that kept him out of last week's 27-26 loss to Cincin-

lowed the Bengals to score 24 fourth-quarter points, one week after New England scored 21 points in the second half in a 24-3

On Sunday, however, Baltimore's defense dominated. "Our guys did a good job of responding after last week," Ravens defensive coordinator Mike Nolan said.

Boller went 18-for-34 for 219 yards. He hadn't thrown more than two TD passes in a game over his first 21 NFL starts.

Seahawks 27, Vikings 23: At Minneapolis, Randy Moss' option nass with about 2 minutes remaining was picked off in the end zone rookie Michael Boulware. Matt Hasselbeck had three first-half touchdown passes for Seattle (7-6), which leads the Rams by a game in the NFC West.

Minnesota (7-6) lost for the fifth time in seven games and dropped a game behind Green Bay in the NFC North, Moss caught four passes for 104 yards and a touchdown.

Rills 37. Browns 7: Back from injury and moved from cornerback to free safety, Troy Vincent had an interception, fumble recovery and sack as the Bills (7-6) won their fourth straight game and sixth in their last seven.

Host Buffalo held the blunder ing Browns to 17 yards, forcing five turnovers and adding eight sacks. Cleveland (3-10) had gained 2 yards with 9:34 left in the game, flirting with the NFL record of minus-7 yards, set by Seattle in 1979

Willis McGahee had 105 vards rushing and scored on runs of 6 and 13 yards.

Jaguars 22, Bears 3: At Jack sonville, the Jaguars (7-6) ended a three-game losing streak and remained a game back in the AFC wild-card race. The Bears (5-8) barely have playoff hopes in the

Byron Leftwich threw two touchdown passes and rookie wide receiver Reggie Williams had his most productive game with four receptions for 62 yards.

Saints 27, Cowboys 13: Dal-(5-8) had won consecutive games, but got little offense after leading 10-0 after the first quarter. Instead, it lost at home to a team that had lost three straight. The Saints (5-8) got their first road victory over the Cowboys in

Deuce McAllister ran for two touchdowns and Joe Horn added a 31-vard TD catch.

49ers 31, Cardinals 28 (OT): The 49ers (2-11) have only beaten the Cardinals (4-9) this season, both times in overtime by the same score. Todd Peterson's 31-yard field goal in overtime won it after San Francisco blew a 25-point lead. Neil Rackers' 22-yard field goal with 59 seconds to go sent the game into overtime. Backup Maurice Hicks rushed

for 139 yards for the Niners.

It's curtains for Jets after Bettis comes on

Steelers finally put Jets away as veteran shines in 4th quarter

BY ALAN ROBINSON The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH - Just like the New En gland Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles be-fore them, the New York Jets left Pittsburgh frustrated and confused after losing to perhaps the most surprising Steelers

team in franchise history. There was one difference: the Jets acted

as if they wouldn't mind coming back. Unlike their earlier routs of New England and Philadelphia, the Steelers (12-1) didn't overwhelm the Jets (9-4) during a tightly played 17-6 victory Sunday. It was 3-3 until early in the fourth quarter, when Jerome Bettis' running and passing made the difference in Pittsburgh's team record-tying 11th consecutive victory.

Maybe that's why Curtis Martin is looking forward to a possible return visit to his hometown during the playoffs, even if an exasperating day filled with penalties and failed opportunities slowed the Jets' drive to the postseason.

"I hope we come back here. I hate losing, period, but I especially hate losing here," Martin said. "I'd love to have a second chance

Bettis is making the most of his second chance with Pittsburgh.

Demoted to the bench last season and rarely used early this season except during short-vardage situations, he carried the Steelers with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Jerame Tuman and a 12-yard TD run.



me Bettis (36) ran for a touchdown and passed for one Sunday in pacing Pittsburgh to a 17-6 defeat of the New York Jets. Bettis also surpassed 13,000 career rushing yards.

On a day both Martin and Bettis surpassed the 13,000-yard career rushing mark, Martin said afterward, "I tip my hat to him" - and it wasn't because Bettis was wearing a brand-new AFC North champi-

Bettis is proving to be one of the Steelers' most valuable players. He had four consecutive 100-yard games while subbing for injured Duce Staley, then replaced the ineffective Staley (16 carries, 51 yards) Sunday to key Pittsburgh's decisive fourth

Bettis' day was so productive that he hardly minded that Martin outrushed him 72-57 to overtake him for fifth place in

yards to Bettis' 13,037. Only four others have reached 13,000 yards, and it was the first time in NFL history two did so in the same game.

"Really, Jerome won the game by himself," wide receiver Hines Ward said

Chad Pennington blamed the loss on himself following a mistake-filled day in which he threw three interceptions fewer than he had all season - and the Jets drew 12 penalties for 84 yards in the first half. They began the game as the NFL's second-least penalized team.

"We're going to go as far as I take the team. That's the way the NFL works," said Pennington, who was 17-for-31 for 189 vards, "I'm better than I played. There were just too many errant throws and bad reads. I didn't manage the game very

Steelers rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger could have said much the same thing, at least until the fourth quarter. He started 3-for-11, but completed six of his final eight throws to finish 9-for-19 for 144 vards.

"When the game was there in the fourth rter, he never really fretted," coach Bill Cowher said

If nothing else, that might explain how a Steelers team that is virtually unchanged from last season, except for adding Roeth-lisberger and Staley, is 12-1 — matching the best 13-game record in team history They can become the first Steelers team to win 12 in a row if they beat the New York Giants (5-8) on Saturday.

"They made the plays, and that's what good teams do, what championship teams Jets coach Herman Edwards said. "Their guys played better than us in the fourth quarter

San Diego's defense comes to the rescue

By BERNIE WILSON The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO - LaDainian Tomlinson fumbled at a critical time. Drew Brees had two passes intercepted for the first time in three months.

The San Diego Chargers' defense got them all back, plus one

"When you're winning, the momentum goes to your side," linebacker Donnie Edwards said "The bounces tend to go your

He should know. Edwards had two interceptions for his hometown Chargers on Sunday, return-ing the second 30 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with 4:09 left to help the Chargers beat Tampa Bay 31-24 for their seventh straight victory.

The Chargers (10-3) moved closer to their first playoff berth in nine seasons. They've won 10 games for the first time since their 1994 Super Bowl season, a huge turnaround from their recent misery of losing at least 10 games five times in the last seven seasons

"I've been playing nine years and to get 10 wins is awesome, Edwards said. "These times don't come around too often, so take advantage and keep on going.

It was the third straight week that the defense helped seal a victory and the second straight week the Chargers had four takeaways. They intercepted three passes off Brian Griese, and the quarterback also lost a fumble.

"Any time you have three turn-overs, the defense is going to have to get the ball back for you," said Tomlinson, who gained 131 yards on 25 carries and scored on a 7-vard run that gave San Diego a 21-14 lead late in the third quar-

But he also fumbled at the end of a 17-yard run with 8 minutes left and Tampa Bay's Dewayne White recovered at the San Diego

Griese hit standout rookie Michael Clayton on a 20-yard touchdown pass with 6:53 left to tie it 21-21. Clayton, who appeared to push off cornerback Quentin Jammer, tipped the ball to himself with his right hand.

Clayton was the intended receiver on the pass Edwards picked off for the TD. "That was huge,"

wards, who ran over to the stands and gave the ball to an aunt who helped him growing up in a lower-middle class neighborhood in National City, just south of downtown San Diego

Griese made a desperation attempt to tackle Edwards, but ended up on his back as the linebacker ran into the end zone and raised both arms in celebration



San Diego's Donnie Edwards had two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown, and also had 16 tackles Sunday in the Chargers' 31-24 victory over Tampa Bay.

Edwards said he knew the Buccaneers were going to throw a quick pass

"I don't think he ever saw me." Edwards said

Griese didn't. "It's a shame, because it kind of wasted a good effort by our team." Griese said. "I feel bad."

A few minutes after Edwards' interception, the Chargers got the ball back when linebacker Steve Foley hit Griese while he was scrambling, forcing a fumble that Shaun Phillips recovered. Rookie Nate Kaeding sealed it with a 40-yard field goal with 2:06 left.

Winning ugly just fine for struggling Denver

BY EDDIE PELLS

The Associated Press

DENVER - The star tailback got benched and got his job back, all in one game. The streaky quarterback threw two interceptions, made an obscene gesture to his own fans and still walked out of it with a victory.

It was a strange, unsettling afternoon in Denver, where the Broncos eked out a 20-17 win over the woeful Miami Dolphins on Sunday despite the travails of fumble-prone Reuben Droughns and hotheaded Jake Plummer.

Tatum Bell ran for 123 vards after Droughns fumbled twice early, only to relinquish the job back to Droughns after he sprained his shoulder. Jason Elam kicked a 50-yard field goal with 2:50 left to bail the Broncos (8-5) out of the whole mess and

keep them in the playoff hunt. "We definitely needed that game to get some confidence back, get some swagger back, Elam said, "It helps us feel good

about ourselves.

Or did it? Plummer's first interception was greeted by boos not the first time the embattled quarterback has heard them in his season-plus in Denver. He responded by reaching his hand behind his head and making an obscene gesture to a fan after he sat down on the bench.

The scene was caught by TV

'One guy got into my head a little bit, it shouldn't be that way, Plummer said. "I'm an emotional guy. I apologize. ... I would never direct that at our fans. We have the greatest fans in the league.

Playing before an announced sellout crowd that included nearly 5,100 no-shows, the Broncos snapped a two-game losing streak and stayed tied with Baltimore for the AFC's final playoff spot. But they hardly looked like playoff material on this, a day in which they got pushed to the edge by one of the worst teams in the league.

"We fought," was about the best thing coach Mike Shanahan could say about the win. "We just had to keep on fighting until you get it done, and that is what I was proud of:

The Dolphins (2-11) weren't out of it until A.J. Feeley threw incomplete to Derrius Thompson on fourth-and-3 with 1:59 left — a play on which Broncos corner Kelly Herndon appeared to be draped all over Thompson before the ball arrived.

"We should have had the catch," Miami coach Jim Bates said. "The guy was wrapped on his back. The ball was thrown right there.

Plummer finished 16-of-30 for 219 yards.

Manning falls short of TD record

BY JOEL ANDERSON The Associated Press

HOUSTON — No. 45 was a simple 3-yard floater to his favorite target. No. 46 was vintage Peyton Manning, a 12-yard

bullet between two defenders.

Nos. 47, 48 and 49 will have to wait.

Dan Marino's record will stand for at least another week or two.

Manning came up short in his bid to tie Marino's 20-year-old NFL mark of 48 touchdown passes in a season, throwing only two Sunday in the Indianapolis Colts' 23-14 victory over the Houston Texans.

He has three more games to break the record, though the task figures to get much tougher. The Colts will face Baltimore, San Diego and Denver — three of the NFL's top-11 defenses — to close out the regular season.

"Honestly, I was hoping against hope that we'd get it down here so we can be done with it," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "I'm sure it will get bigger each week. We'll just have to deal with it."

Manning threw touchdown passes on the Colts' first two drives, but Indianapolis (10-3) didn't get into the end zone again. For the first time in nine games, Manning had fewer than three TD passes.

He still broke one of Marino's records, just not the one everybody is talking about.

Just not the one everyoody is tasking about. It was his 13th straight multi-TD game, breaking a record held by Marino, Johnny Unitas, Don Meredith and Brett Favre. Unitas was the only other to do it at the beginning of a season, for the Colts 45 years ago in the midst of his record 47 straight games.

with a TD pass.

After Manning's fast start, the Colts settled for three field goals by Mike Vanderjagt (30, 43 and 44 yards) in the second

"That's how it's going to be sometimes," receiver Brandon Stokley said. "You can't score 40 points every time."

The way Manning started Sunday, it looked as if he would catch Marino by half-

Seven plays after Jason David intercepted a pass by David Carr at the Texans 38, Manning threw a 3-yard TD pass to Marvin Harrison — the 81st between Manning and Harrison, the second-most for a quarterback-receiver duo behind 85 by Steve

Young and Jerry Rice.

The Texans (5-8) then went three-and-out, and Indianapolis went 72 yards on eight plays — four passes and four runs by James.

Manning fired a ball to Wayne in the end zone despite tight coverage with 3:37 left in the first quarter to put the Colts up 14-0.

"It doesn't matter what you do in those other three quarters," Texans defensive lineman Robaire Smith said. "You can't spot a good team 14 points and expect to

But Manning and the Colts were sloppy at times, in one sequence having three penalties in a four-play stretch.

The only other time Manning threw into the end zone, Stokley made a diving attempt on a ball in the third quarter just before Vanderjagt's 30-yard field goal for a 17-7 lead.

Manning later missed on two wide-open throws that could have gone for scores, one to Harrison in the third and another that sailed just out of Reggie Wayne's reach in the fourth.

He finished 26-for-33 for 298 yards. Edgerrin James ran for 104 yards on 28 carries, and had seven catches for 54

Afterward, Manning put on a happy face when questions about the record he didn't get came up — repeatedly — in the locker room. It was a lot easier to smile, of course, when he placed a brand new black AFC South champions can atoo his sweaty head.



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning threw two touchdown passes in the Colts 23-14 win over the Texans.

"I'm really enjoying the ride," said Manning, who led the Colts to their fifth playoff berth in his seven season. "I threw 29 last year and it felt like a lot."

Domanick Davis had 201 total yards for Houston, which lost for the fifth time in the past six games.

Falcons wrap up NFC South

BY PAUL NEWBERRY

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons took a little time to celebrate their NFC South title. Then it was back to work.

Clearly, the Falcons have loftier goals than just a division championship.

"This is exciting, but it's just a

step on the way to the big prize," defensive lineman Travis Hall said Sunday. "What we really want to do as a team is get to the Super Bowl — and win."

Still, this was a landmark event in Atlanta's NFL history. T.J. Duckett set a team record

by rushing for four touchdowns and the Falcons clinched just the third division title in franchise history, wrapping up the NFC South with a 35-10 rout of the Oakland Raiders.

When it was over, rookie coach Jim Mora grabbed the game ball and — with his 9-year-old son at his side — held it aloft for the fans as he walked off the field.

"I haven't been here very long, so it's hard to grasp what it means," Mora said. "But I could see the looks on their faces. I could see they appreciated it."

Atlanta, which last won a division title in 1998 on the way to its only Super Bowl, bounced back from a 27-0 loss at Tampa Bay that delayed the celebration.

Not that it was much of a party. The Falcons (10-3) built a 35-3 lead over the Raiders, so most of the Georgia Dome sellout didn't hang around to the end. In the locker room afterward, Mora gave the ball to owner Arthur Blank, and the players wore black



Atlanta Falcons running back T.J. Duckett (45) scores the first of his four touchdowns against the Oakland Raiders on Sunday.

caps noting their division championship.

That was about it. No cham-

pagne. No cigars.
"This is nice," Mora said, "but

"This is nice," Mora said, "but there are other things we want to

The Falcons' less-than-stellar history is apparent from the banners hanging from the Georgia Dome roof. There are only three, marking division titles in 1980 and '98, along with the NFC championship in that latter season.

Now, it's time to put up a fourth.

The Falcons had their way against the hapless Raiders, seizing control with a 21-point second

Appropriately, Hall was in on the biggest play. One of just two holdovers from Atlanta's last championship team, he deflected a pass by Oakland's Kerry Collins late in the first half.

The ball went right to former Raiders defensive tackle Rod Coleman, who returned the interception 39 yards for a touchdown that gave the Falcons a commanding 21-3 lead at the break.

Oakland (4-9) had three turnovers and didn't reach end zone until Zack Crockett's meaningless TD with just under 3½ minutes remaining.

"You turn the ball over like we did and you just really make it hard on yourself," coach Norv Turner said.

After going 5-11 a year ago, Atlanta has reached double-figure wins for only the fourth time in its 39-year history.

Patriots edge Bengals to clinch AFC East title

BY HOWARD ULMAN The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — From where Tom Brady sits, he always sees a chance to make a play until the whistle blows. Even when he's sitting on the ground.

That's where he was when he threw a completion Sunday in a 35-28 win over the Cincinnati Bengals in which the New England Patriots clinched the AFC East title with their 27th victory in 28 games.

"I wish I would have seen it," said left tackle Matt Light, who was busy blocking. "When you're an ultracompetitive player like that there's never a point where you just stop [and say] 'that's impossible'. That's his attitude. Some way or another, it's going to work out."

The game didn't work out for the Bengals (6-7) even though they outgained the Patriots 478 yards to 351. Cincinnati, which won four of its previous five games, committed three harmful turnovers while the Patriots (12-1) committed ones.

"When you play a Super Bowl defending champion team like that, you just can't make mistakes," Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer said. "That's why they are so good."

On the play on which he fell, Brady thought he tripped over a running back moving to pick up a blitz. From a seated position, he threw a strong pass to the left side to Patrick Pass for a 7-yard gain early in the third quarter.

"It happened so fast, I realized I had a little time and I tried to get my eyes over there," Brady said. "I don't want to do that too often. The percentages are against you on a play like that." It's such a rare play that Brady can't remember it happening to him in a game.

"Probably never," he said. "My dad and my sisters used to throw me on the ground and then I would be firing stuff (at) them."

After Pass' catch, Brady ran 2 yards for a first down then completed his next four passes. The last was a 17-yard touchdown that a wide-open Christian Fauria leaped for and the Patriots led 35-14 after the first series of the third quarter.

The Bengals came back, even though Palmer left the game late in the third quarter with a sprained left knee. He was on crutches after the game, and coach Marvin Lewis said his condition was day-to-day.

"I felt a little pop," Palmer said. "I should be OK to play."

His last drive led to Kyle Larson's 11-yard touchdown run on a fake field goal. The Bengals then reached the Patriots 10 early in the fourth quarter, but Troy Brown intercepted Jon Kitna's pass in the end zone.

Then Kitna threw a 27-yard scoring pass to Kelley Washington, and the Bengals trailed just 35-28 with 3:50 left. But they never got the ball back.

"We've lost games because we've made key mistakes," Washington said. "We've moved the ball. We have the talent. But we're not mature enough yet."

The Bengals took the opening kickoff and marched to the Patriots' 12-yard line. Then Rudi Johnson fumbled and Willie McGinest recovered. The Patriots went 84 yards and scored on a 1-yard run by Corey Dillon as they scored first for the 18th straight game, an NFL record.



Green Bay Packers defenders Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, Grady Jackson (75) and Nick Barnett (56) wrap up Detroit Lions running back Kevin Jones (34) during the fourth quarter Sunday in Green Bay, Wis.

Packers haul down Lions

Detroit blows 13-point lead, falls back in NFC North

BY ARNIE STAPLETON The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. Favre always sees to it that the Detroit Lions' flight home over Lake Michigan isn't short and sweet.

The Lions blew a 13-point halftime lead and a big chance to get back into the playoff picture in the muddled NFC North on Sunday when they lost 16-13 to Green Bay in a game in which they only trailed for the final 2 seconds.

They sure felt good about their chances of winning in Wisconsin for the first time since 1991, the year before Favre's arrival, when Ahman Green's 79-vard touchdown on a screen pass was negated by a debatable holding call on rookie center Scott Wells in the third quarter with Detroit leading 13-3

The Packers were backed up to their 13 and staring straight into a flag-snapping 35 mph wind and swirling snow flurries. But Wells shook off the penalty, and nine plays later, Favre split Bracy Walker and Keith Smith for a 23-yard touchdown throw to Donald Driver.

Ryan Longwell added fourth-quarter field goals of 28 and 23 yards as the Packers (8-5) overtook Minnesota, who lost at home to Seattle, atop the NFC North. The Lions fell to 5-8

Wells, who started for Grey Ruegamer (ankle), thought his block on weakside linebacker James Davis that sprung Green through the second wave of defenders was legal.

"I was running down the field. I was probably on the other 30-yard line. So, I threw my arms up in the air for the touchdown and I turned around and saw the flag," Wells said.

He was disappointed but not dispirited

"I'm kind of laid back so I kind of laughed it off. I disagreed with the call. I thought it was a good block," Wells said. "It's frustrating any time they take points off the board, especially when they call your number out for it. But luckily we were able to keep the drive going and put some points on the board.

Although Longwell would win it with his 43rd straight conversion inside 40 yards, coach Mike Sherman said the resolve his offense showed after the holding penalty was the key to the come-

"To be able to overcome that devastation, because we're struggling and we're struggling and we're struggling, and to be able to have it and then take it away. I think it shows the determination of our guys to keep fighting," Sherman said. "I thought that was a telling moment" a telling moment.

Favre led Green Bay back from a 13-0 halftime deficit by completing 16 of 21 passes for 160 yards in the second half after going just 3-for-15 for 28 yards in the first half

Snow flurries dampened the field into what Longwell called a "swampy mess" and swirling wind wreaked havoc on passes nunts and long snans and caused a slew of drops.

"I've always said there is nothing routine about a field goal and today there was nothing routine about extra points," Longwell

Detroit quarterback Joey Harrington completed just 5 of 22 passes for 47 yards as the Lions relied on rookie running back Kevin Jones, who rushed 33 times for 156 yards and a touch-

Panthers in playoffs? It's not so far-fetched after win over Rams

BY JENNA FRYER The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Don't mention records, scores what-if scenarios to the Carolina Panthers. They have no interest in what it will take to make the playoffs.

So focused on their one-gameat-a-time philosophy, the Pan-thers had no idea their 20-7 victory over St. Louis on Sunday put them in a tie for the final NFC wild-card berth.

"The only scoreboard we watch is ours," defensive tackle Brentson Buckner said. "If we don't control our scoreboard, the rest of it doesn't matter.'

Right now, Carolina (6-7) is certainly in control.

The Panthers, playing nearly as well as they did during their run to the Super Bowl last season won their fifth straight to climb into the playoff hunt. They are tied with the Rams (6-7) for the final berth, but own the head-to-head tiebreaker

It was an unimaginable position after the Panthers onened 1-7 and lost starter after starter to season-ending injuries.

"Look, we don't even have a winning record yet," quarterback Jake Delhomme cautioned "We are still a ways away.

But they got a lot closer Sunday behind a defense that set a franchise record with six interceptions, three sacks, and a fumble recovery on a muffed nunt

Feeding off the defense, the Panthers got touchdowns from Muhsin Muhammad and Nick Goings and two field goals from John Kasay in a rematch of January's thrilling NFC divisional play-

But this one wasn't nearly as dramatic as Carolina's 29-23 win in double overtime, mainly because the teams are totally different than they were in January.

For starters, 10 of Carolina's 22 regulars from that game are either no longer with the Panthers or out with injuries. St. Louis (6-7) was without star running back Marshall Faulk, and started 39-year-old Chris Chandler at

quarterback because Marc Bulger is hurt But the stakes were just as

high at least for Carolina "It's a playoff game for us



Panthers running back Nick Goings (37) leaps over the St. Louis Rams defense for a touchdown in the first quarter of Carolina's 20-7 victory on Sunday.

every time we go on the field," cornerback Ricky Manning Jr. said. "This is it for us. The hole we put ourselves in, the only way out of it is to win every game and keep the season going.

Manning took the first step, intercenting Chandler on the Rams' first series to set un Carolina's first touchdown. It was Manning who set up Carolina's playoff victory, as well, when he ended a St. Louis drive by wrestling the hall away from Torry Holt to give the Panthers possession for their winning drive

Dan Morgan, back from a three-game absence with a concussion, had two interceptions to tie Manning for the team lead, and Will Witherspoon and rookie Chris Gamble each added a nick

Morgan had no idea which of the six interceptions meant the most

"There were so many, I forgot all of them," he said.

Making his first start in over a year, Chandler wasn't crisp.

But the 17-year veteran still made a handful of athletic plays, including a 52-yard touchdown pass to Isaac Bruce that was negated by a holding call.

Chandler did throw a 75-yard TD pass to Holt at the end of the first quarter, when the Rams converted on third-and-9. Chandler finished 16-for-29 for 243 yards, one touchdown six intercentions and was sacked three times.

Sunday's NFL stars:

Ouarterbacks

B Peyton Manning, Colts, was 26-01-33 for 28e and 28-01-30 for 38e and 38-14-38 for 38e and 3

Receivers

■ Donte' Stallworth, Saints, had 113 yards on five catches, in a 27-13 win over Dallas. ■ Randy Moss, Vikings, caught four passes for 104 yards and a tourchdown but they ndown, but threw a crucia nterception in a 27-23 loss to

late interception in a 27-23 loss to the Seahawks.

Darrell Jackson, Seahawks had 10 receptions for 135 yards and a touchdown in a 27-23 wir over the Vikings after learning in he morning his father had died of



cancer. ■ Torry Holt, Rams, had 151 yards and a touchdown on six catches in a 20-7 loss

Running backs

Domanick Davis, Texans, had 201 tal yards for Houston. He had 23 car-ries for 128 yards and a touchdown, and caught six passes for 73 yards. Willis McGahee, Bills, had 105 Willis McGahee, Bills, had 105 yards and scored twice in a 37-7 win over Cleveland. It was McGahee's sixth 100-yard game in eight starts, and the Bills have won all six times. #Edgern James, Colts, ran for 104 yards on 28 carries, and had seven fatches for 54 yards in a 23-14 win over

Catenes to a grant and thouston.

Nick Goings, Panthers, ran for 108 yards and a 1-yard TD in a 20-7 win over \$1. Louis. The subth-string running back to the substraint and the substra

yards and two scores before spraining his shoulder in a PG-17 win over Mamily in 156 yards and a touchdown in a 16-13 to 32 yards and a touchdown in a 16-13 to 32 yards and a touchdown in a 16-13 to 32 yards on 25 carries and yards on 25 carries and over Tampa Bay. dr un in a 31-24 win me Maurice Mick. 49ers, carried 34 starting in place of Kevan Bartow in a 31-26 overline win over Yards.

Special teams

Jason Elam, Broncos, kicked a 0-yard field goal with 2:50 left as Den-er beat Miami 20-17. Ryan Longwell, Packers, kicked a 23 ard field goal with 2 seconds remaining o give Green Bay a 16-13 win over the art field goal with z second field goal field goal field to find over the closs, it was Longwell's third game-winning field goal in five weeks.

Todd Peterson, 49ers, kicked a 31-yard field goal in overtime to lift San Francisco to a 31-28 victory over Arizo-

Weis will coach Irish ... and Patriots

Willingham heads back to Pac-10; Stanford hires Pitt coach Harris

Charlie Weis landed Tyrone Willingham's old job at Notre Dan

Walt Harris was tapped to take over at Stanford, where Willingham led the Cardinal to the 2000 Rose Bowl

Meanwhile, Willingham himself was hired by Washington on Sunday as three high-profile head coaching positions were filled and another came open

Brigham Young was also set to an-nounce a new coach Monday, with The Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret Morning News reporting that defensive coordinator Bron co Mendenhall was expected to get the job that opened when Gary Crowton resigned. Weis said his job as Notre Dame's coach

is to raise expectations and win games.

"That's the bottom line in this business," he said Monday at a news conference. "Graduating kids is the first and foremost thing. ... Bringing in character kids is important. But it's all about winning games. That's why there's a coaching change.

Weis, the New England Patriots' offensive coordinator, graduated from Notre Dame in 1978, but never played football for the Irish

He agreed to a six-year deal that will pay him a reported \$2 million annually. His hiring ended an awkward two weeks for the Fighting Irish that began with the firing of

Willingham's three-year tenure was the shortest of any full-time Notre Dame coach in 70 years. He had three years left on his initial contract, but was let go after going 6-5. Notre Dame had made a tradition of allowing its coaches to at least work through the length of their first contract.

Last week, outgoing Notre Dame president the Rev. Edward Malloy criticized Willingham's firing and expressed concern over a growing trend of schools that are searching for "messiah coaches."

Notre Dame took more hits when its first

choice to replace Willingham, Utah coach Urban Meyer, took an offer from Florida. That sent the Irish searching and eventu

ally looking to Weis, a longtime NFL assis-tant who has never been a head coach. The 48-year-old Weis arrived at the

school Sunday night, just hours after the Patriots beat Cincinnati in Foxboro, Mass. Within an hour, he met with the players.



Former Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham will return to the Pac-10 as Washington's third head coach in four seasons. He previously coached at Stanford.

'As I told the team, one of the problems is because expectations were not met, Weis said Monday. "You are what you are. And right now that's a 6-5 football team, and that's just not good enough. It's not good enough for me. If you think they hired me to go .500, you've got the wrong

He will stay with New England through the NFL playoffs, juggling both jobs.

Not long before Weis' arrival in South Bend, Ind., Washington announced that it was bringing Willingham back to the Pac-10

The Huskies, who play the Irish on Sept. 24 in Seattle, are coming off a school-worst 1-10 season and still trying to recover from a messy divorce with former coach Rick Neuheisel before the 2003 season.

Keith Gilbertson replaced Neuheisel, who was fired for gambling on NCAA basketball, but couldn't keep Washington from sinking to the bottom of the Pac-10. Gilbertson stepped down after the season. The Huskies made initial contact with Will-ingham while he was still employed by Notre Dame, and when he was fired he became a prime candidate.

"I am excited about being here," Willingham said



Charlie Weis leaves the Joyce Center on Sunday ahead of Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White. Weis signed a six-year contract to coach the Fighting Irish, but will continue to serve as the New England Patriots' offensive coordinator throughout the NFL playoffs.

Willingham was 21-15 in three seasons at Notre Dame — but after an 8-0 start in 2002, the Irish went 13-15. Before going to Notre Dame, Willingham coached Stan-ford from 1995-2001. He went 44-36-1 with the Cardinal

Harris will try to get them back after three unsuccessful season's under Buddy Teevens, who replaced Willingham in 2003. Stanford was looking for a coach with a strong offensive background after the Car dinal struggled to score during Teevens' tenure.

The Cardinal went 4-7 the past two sea sons, losing their last five games this year. Harris was Ohio State's quarterbacks coach in 1995-96 before going to Pitt. He has led the Panthers to three straight seasons with eight or more wins.

But he also has ties to the Bay Area. He grew up in South San Francisco and attended college at Pacific in Stockton Stanford athletic director Ted Leland

also hired Harris to coach Pacific in 1989 Harris's eighth season with Pittsburgh has been one of his most successful. The Panthers started 2-2 and there was talk that Harris, in the last year of his contract, would be replaced at season's end.

But the Panthers won six of their final

seven to earn their first spot in the Bowl Championship Series.

Harris and AD Jeff Long met last week but couldn't agree on a contract extension, so the coach resigned Sunday.

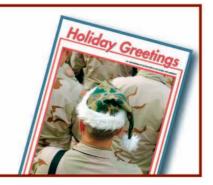
Pitt plays Utah in the Fiesta Bowl in Jan.

1, and Harris is expected to coach the

LOOK FOR HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM FOLKS BACK HOME

in your December 16th STARS AND STRIPES Middle East edition





SPORTS



Bryant accuses Malone of making pass at his wife, then helps Lakers beat Magic, Pages 24, 25

4 score with 3 games to go

Steelers, Pats, Colts, Falcons win to lock up division titles

The Associated Press

our teams took the first big step toward the Super Bowl by clinching division titles, joining the Philadelphia Eagles, who already wrapped up the NFC East crown.

wrapped up the NFC East crown.

Defending Super Bowl champion New England won the AFC East when it beat Cincinnati 35-28 and the New York Jets lost at Pittsburgh 17-6.

Pittsburgh's victory also earned the Steelers the AFC North title. Indianapolis captured the AFC South

Indianapolis captured the AFC South with a 23-14 victory at Houston, and Atlanta took the NFC South when it beat Oakland 35-10.

The Steelers and Patriots, though, still have a lot on the line in the last three weeks — home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. Both are 12-1, but Pittsburgh holds the tiebreaker because it beat New England.

"Everybody keeps waiting for us to have

"Everybody keeps waiting for us to have a letdown, but each week someone steps up and makes big plays," Steelers receiver Hines Ward said after Pittsburgh won its 11th straight with rookie Ben Roethlisberger as the starting quarterback.

Roethlisberger was only 9-for-19 for 144 yards but Jerome Bettis made up for it by throwing for a touchdown and running for method both in the fourth augustus.

another, both in the fourth quarter.

"Really, Jerome won the game by himself." Ward said.

The Patriots got key plays from quarterback Tom Brady (two touchdown passes), their defense (two red zone turnovers) and running back Corey Dillon against Dillon's old team, the Bengals, to get to the playoffs for the third time in four years, but Dillon's first time in eight years.

"We are excited about [the division title]," Patriots safety Rodney Harrison said. "We will enjoy this victory for a day

T.J. Duckett set a Falcons team record by rushing for four touchdowns to secure just the third division crown in Atlanta's history, but there was little celebration.

"This is exciting, but it's just a step on the way to the big prize," defensive lineman Travis Hall said Sunday. "What we really want to do as a team is get to the Super Bowl — and win."

In Houston, the Texans allowed Peyton Manning only two touchdown passes — he still needs two to tie Dan Marino's record 48 — but they couldn't keep the Colts from winning their second straight AFC South title.

"We got what we wanted today, and that was to win," Manning said.

■ See game coverage on Pages 27-30



AP photos

Clockwise from above: III Steelers running back Jerome Bettis celebrates a fourth quarter touchdown run against the Jets. Bettis also threw for a fourth-quarter score as Pittsburgh won the AFC North with the victory. III Colts QB Peyton Manning (18) threw two early touchdown passes, but that was it, leaving him two short of Dan Marino's record 48. Still, Indianapolis won the AFC South for a second straight year by beating the Texans. III Patriots cornerback Asante Samuel (22) is congratuated by teammate Rodney Harrison after Samuel returned an interception 34 yards for a touchdown in their victory over Cincinnati. That, coupled with the Jets loss to the Steelers, secured the AFC East for New England. The Patriots and Steelers are tied atop the AFC with 12-1 records. III Falcon Steelers are tied atop the AFC with 12-1 records. III Falcon Steelers are tied atop the AFC with 12-1 records. III Falcon Steelers are tied atop the AFC with 12-1 records. III Falcon Steelers are tied to the AFC with 12-1 records. III Falcon Steelers are tied to the AFC with 12-1 records the Texans of the AFC with 12-1 records the Steelers are tied to the AFC with 12-1 records the Texans of the AFC with 12-1 records the AF







Weis, Willingham, Harris fill high-profile coaching vacancies Page 31